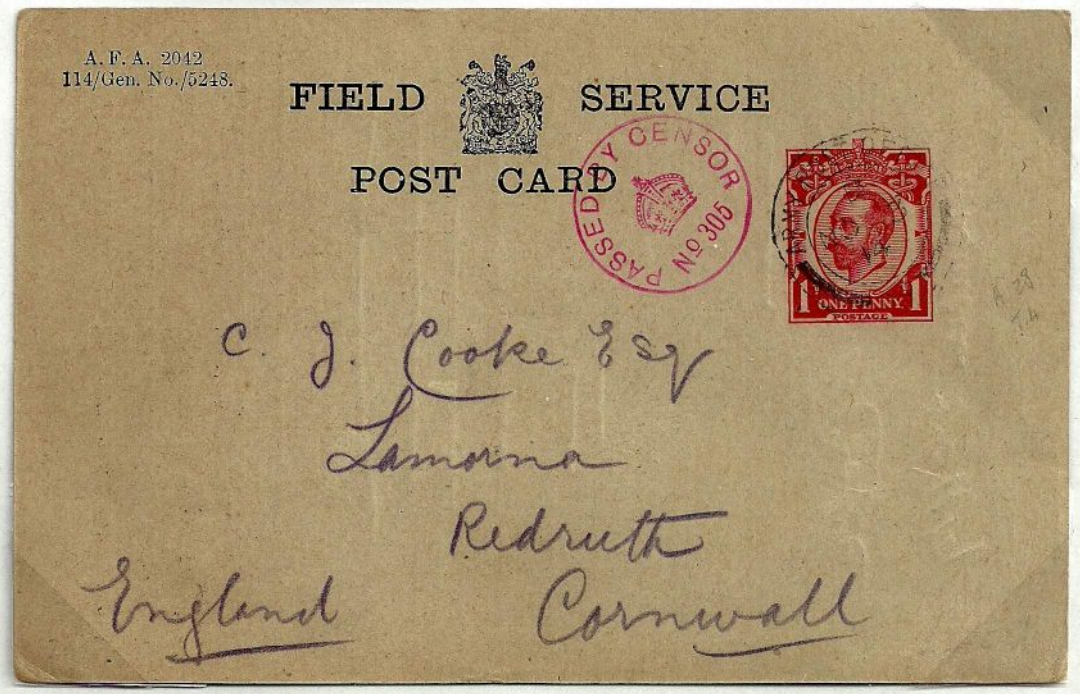
FIELD SERVICE POSTCARD

1d value with dot after 'PENNY.' on greyish buff card. Used from 16.8.14.

Card to Cambridge from ABPO, 24.9.14, Nantes where it was relocated from Le Havre for c.three weeks for security.



Card to Redruth from APO, 3.11.14, censor Type 1/305. 16th Bde, 6th Div., who after the1st Battle of Ypres were participating in the first trench warfare.

FIELD SERVICE POSTCARD

1d value with dot after 'PENNY.' on bluish grey card. Used from 30.9.14.

Card to Sheffield from APO 66, 2.11.14, 22nd Bde 7th Div. 1st Battle of Ypres.

Card to IOW dated ms 5.11.14, without datestamp, censor Type 1/271.

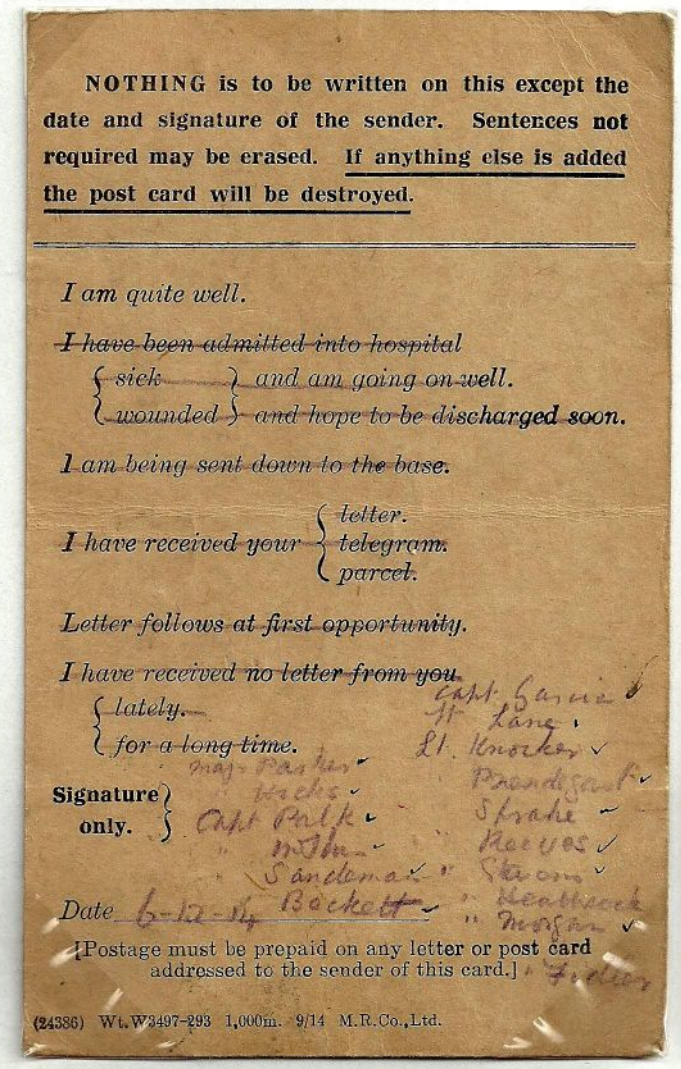
POW USE OF FIELD SERVICE POSTCARD

Card to Cambridge with datestamp 'K.D. FELDPOSTAMT / 3 / ARMEE – CPS / 28/8' and red two line censor 'Kriegsgefangenen sending / Gepruft'.

The German 3rd Army Corps (von Lichow's 5 and 6 Divisions) of von Kluck's First Army met the newly arrived BEF 5th Div, which included 1/Norfolks, 2/Suffolks, 1/Beds, on 23.8.14 at the beginning of the Retreat from Mons and again at Le Cateau . The latter was an effective but costly holding action and some 2,600 British troops became POWs.

"ACCELERATED POSTCARD"

Field Service Postcard, Burrows Type 1.4 without stamp, to Cox & Co, London from APO 43, 7.12.14, III Corps HQ in the Armentieres / Wulverghem sector. The card has the superscription 'accelerated postcard', a London Official Paid machine marking for 8.12, War Office cachet and has been forwarded to Major Westmorland the Officer Commanding the Hampshire Regt Depot Winchester.



NOTHING is to be written on this except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

~~*I have been admitted into hospital*~~
{sick / wounded} and am going on well.
{sick / wounded} and hope to be discharged soon.

~~*I am being sent down to the base.*~~

I have received your {letter. / telegram. / parcel.}

~~*Letter follows at first opportunity.*~~

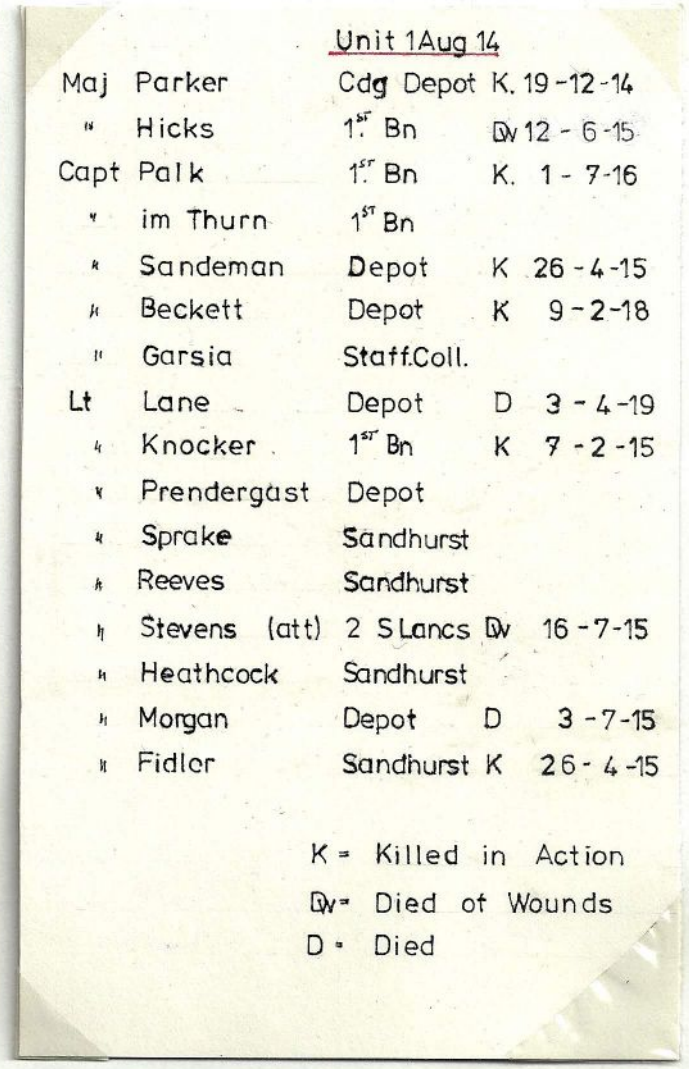
~~*I have received no letter from you*~~
{lately. / for a long time.}

Signature only. Capt Garsia, Lt Lane, Lt Knocker, Maj Parker, Hicks, Capt Palk, Prendergast, Sprake, Reeves, Sandeman, Beckett, Heathcock, Morgan, Fidler

Date 6-12-14

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

(24386) Wt.W3497-293 1,000m. 9/14 M.R.Co.,Ltd.



Unit 1Aug 14

Maj	Parker	Cdg Depot	K. 19-12-14
"	Hicks	1st Bn	Dw 12-6-15
Capt	Palk	1st Bn	K. 1-7-16
"	im Thurn	1st Bn	
"	Sandeman	Depot	K 26-4-15
"	Beckett	Depot	K 9-2-18
"	Garsia	Staff.Coll.	
Lt	Lane	Depot	D 3-4-19
"	Knocker	1st Bn	K 7-2-15
"	Prendergast	Depot	
"	Sprake	Sandhurst	
"	Reeves	Sandhurst	
"	Stevens (att)	2 S Lancs	Dw 16-7-15
"	Heathcock	Sandhurst	
"	Morgan	Depot	D 3-7-15
"	Fidler	Sandhurst	K 26-4-15

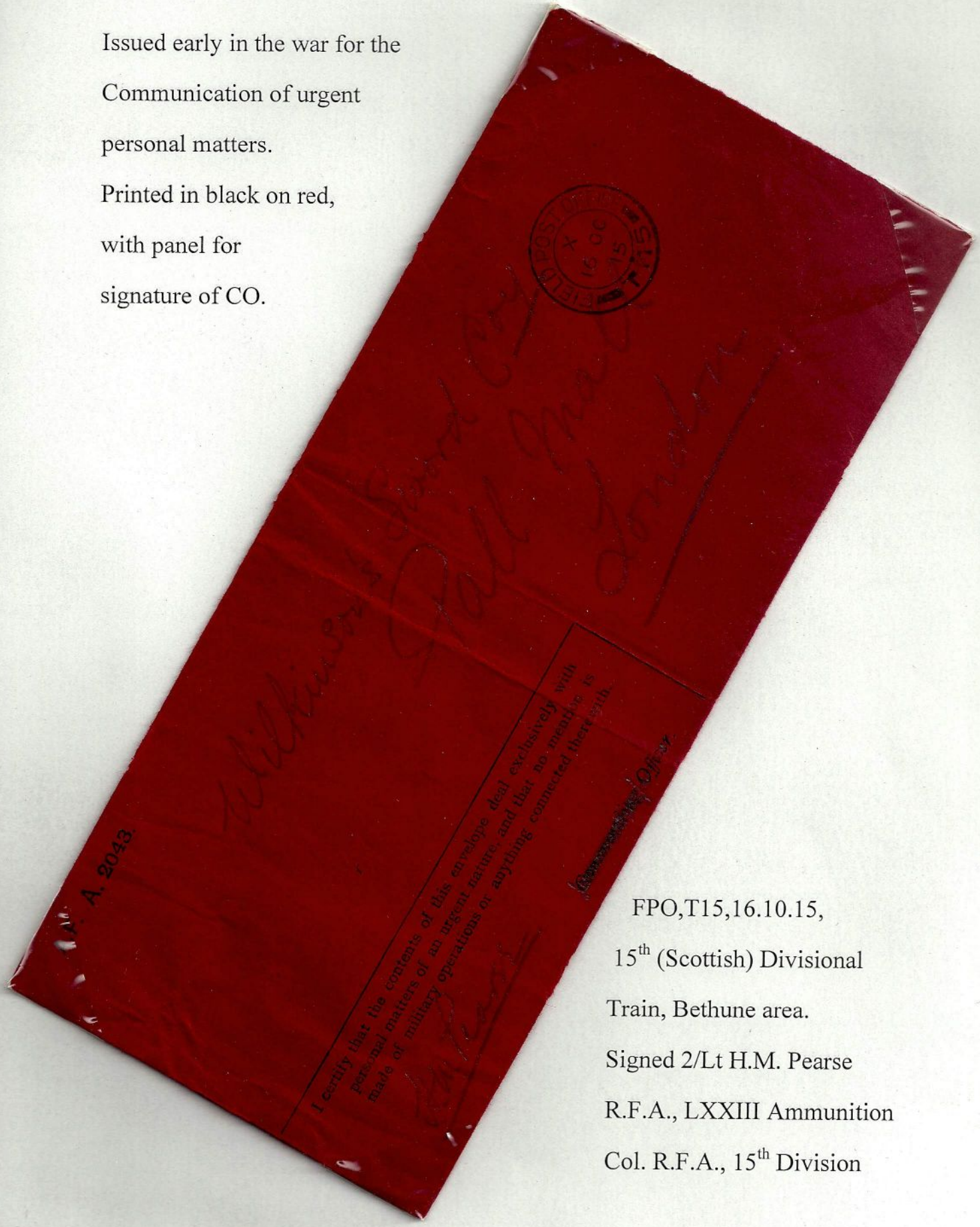
K = Killed in Action
Dw = Died of Wounds
D = Died

The reverse bears a list of Officers of the 1st Hants Regt, 11th Brigade, 4th Div, II Corps, 2nd Army on 6.12.14 – presumably a method of detailing the effective strength at that time.

RED HONOUR ENVELOPES, A.F. 2043

Issued early in the war for the Communication of urgent personal matters.

Printed in black on red, with panel for signature of CO.



FPO,T15,16.10.15,

15th (Scottish) Divisional Train, Bethune area.

Signed 2/Lt H.M. Pearse

R.F.A., LXXIII Ammunition Col. R.F.A., 15th Division

[*Crown copyright reserved.*

REVISED RULES REGARDING CORRESPONDENCE FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.

1. Letters should be made up and addressed as follows :—

(*a*) An inner envelope, showing the prisoner's name, initials, rank and regiment, &c., should be left open.

(*b*) An outer envelope enclosing the above should be closed and addressed—

"For British Prisoner of War,
Interned in Germany (or Austria Hungary),
c/o General Post Office,
Mount Pleasant, London."

2. Correspondence should be limited to private and family news and to necessary business communications.

No references to the naval, military, or political situation, or to naval and military movements and organisations are allowed. Letters containing such references will be returned to the senders.

3. Letters may be written in English.

4. Postal parcels should be addressed as follows :—

"(Name, rank of Unit),
British Prisoner of War,
Interned in Germany (or Austria Hungary),
c/o General Post Office,
Mount Pleasant, London."

5. Postage need not be paid either on letters or parcels addressed to British prisoners of war.

6. No letters should be enclosed in parcels. As correspondence must be submitted to censorship on arrival, short communications, not exceeding two sides of a sheet of notepaper, will probably be delivered more speedily than long letters.

7. Money orders intended for British prisoners of war are issued without any charge for commission. Letters containing money orders should be addressed as in paragraph 1. The transmission of coin, either in letters or parcels, is expressly prohibited.

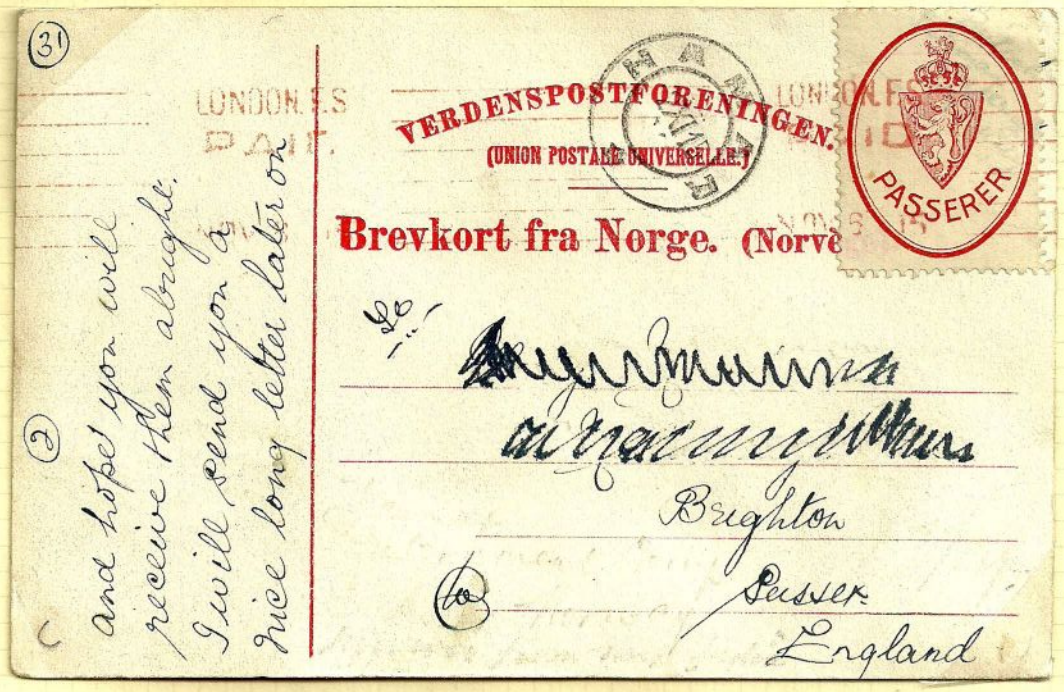
8. Postal parcels will be registered and insured without charge.

WAR OFFICE,
October, 1914.

(B516) 5000 10/14 H&S 1387wo

Military Interned Mail.

Hamar, Norway 2 XI 15 to Brighton.

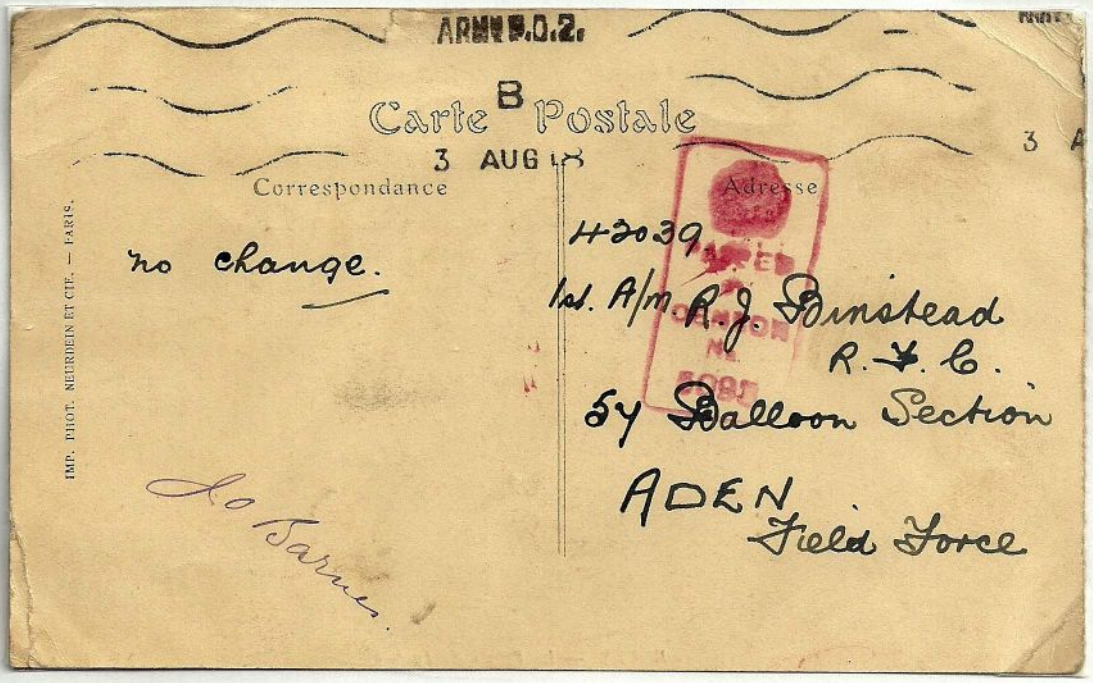


H.M.S. India was sunk on 8th August 1915 in the North Sea by a torpedo from a German submarine. 22 offs. and 119 ratings were saved but 11 of the latter died from exposure. They were interned in Norway where the authorities used a special adhesive label on their mail.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

ADEN FIELD FORCE

57 Balloon Section, Royal Flying Corps

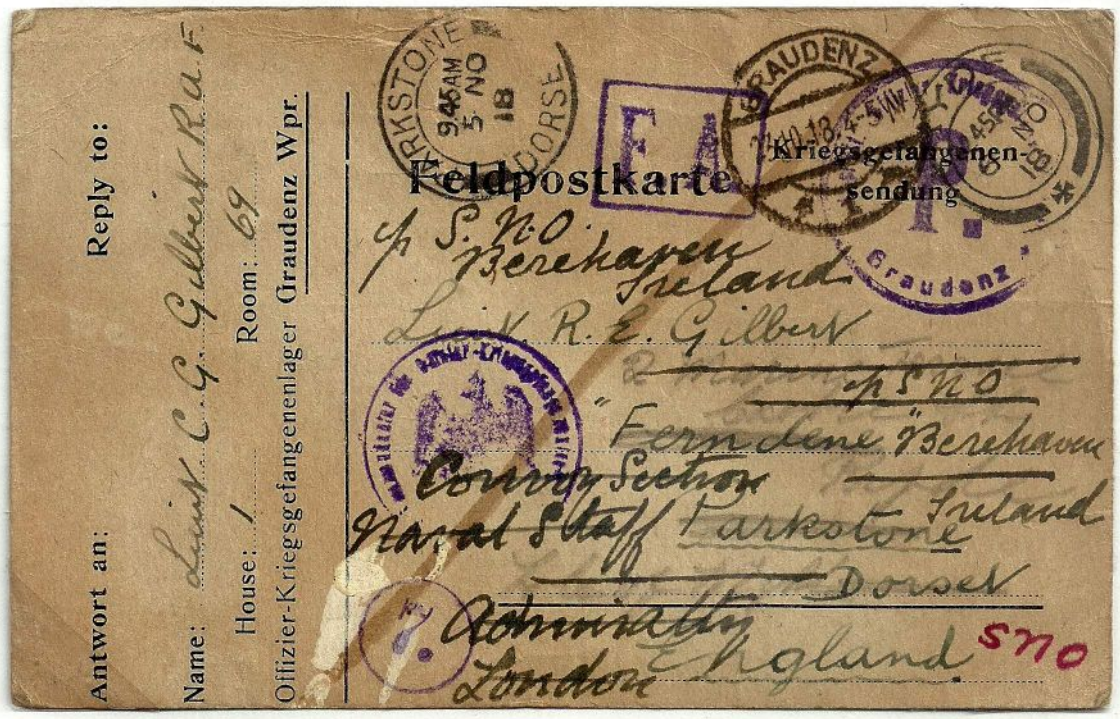


Postcard from APO 2, 3 AUG 1918 at Rouen to 57 Balloon Section, Aden.

From Nov 1917 three Henri Farman machines of the half flight from 114 Squadron were used for bombing, reconnaissance and dropping leaflets. They were not equipped with wireless until Apr 1918 and spotting was by balloon with direct telephone links to Batteries. The Section kept one balloon operational, used for c10 hours a week with life of 10-12 weeks. By mid July the Section was without replacements and returned to Egypt.

VON RICHTHOFEN VICTIM

Manfred von Richthofen was the highest scoring 'ace' of the Imperial German Army Air Service, with 80 allied aircraft to his credit. He was the leader of the unit Jasta 11.



POW card from Graudenz, West Prussia written 14.10.18, datestamped 23.10.18 to RN Lieut. at Parkstone, forwarded to Ryde, the Admiralty and Berehaven. German Camp and censor markings, with chemical stripe test.

The sender Lieut. C.G. Gilbert,in a 29 Squadron Nieuport Scout was shot down over Tilley on 25th March 1917 and taken prisoner. He was victim number 31, one of 26 allied airmen to survive the attentions of the 'Red Baron'.

BELMONT WORKHOUSE, SUTTON, SURREY

This site appears to have been used as temporary accommodation for interned merchant seamen at the beginning of the war.

Postcard to the German Sailors Home at Limehouse, headed Belmont Workhouse, 9.9.14. It has been struck with censor Type 7 and further the boxed marking attributed to the Postal Censorship Division – M.O.5(H).

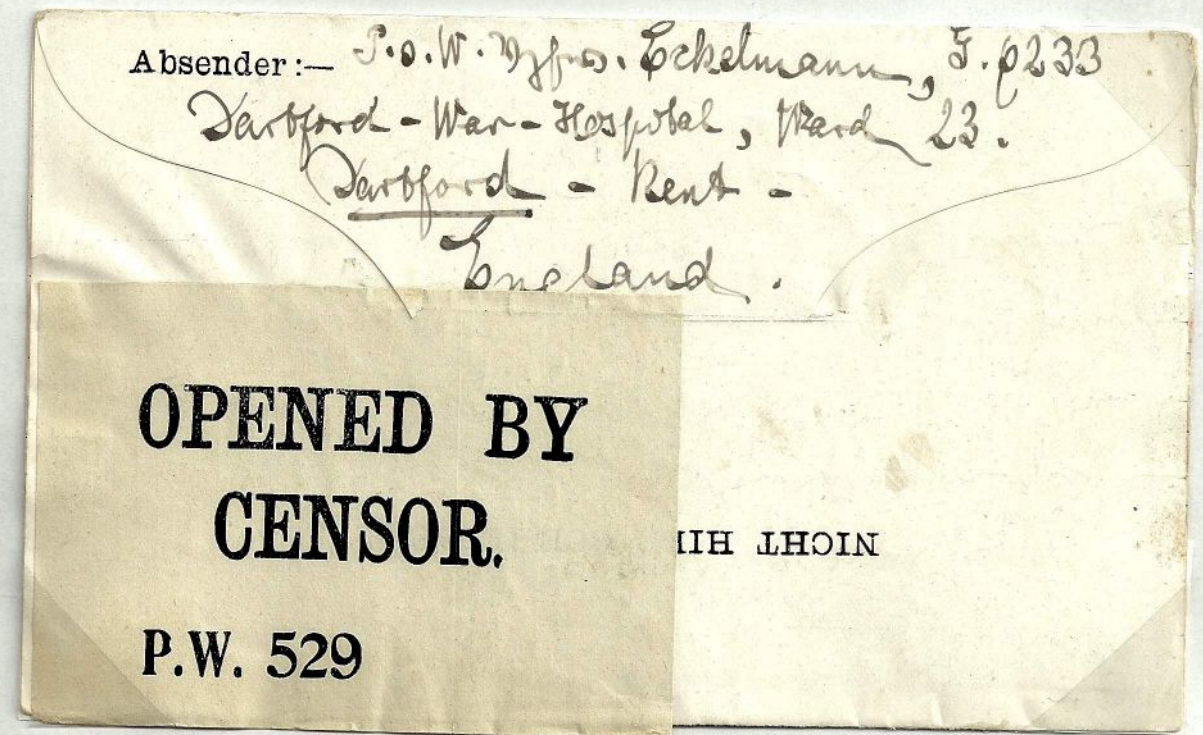
The message is from one of three interned German crew of the S.S. Erna Boldt who adds that the others have left on the 28th Aug for Frith Hill Camp, Aldershot.

The Erna Boldt was a small British owned cargo ship, with Newcastle owners. She was torpedoed without warning on 9th June 1916 off Harwich.

DARTFORD WAR HOSPITAL, KENT

Opened as a POW Hospital 9th Sep. 1915 with 1242 beds.

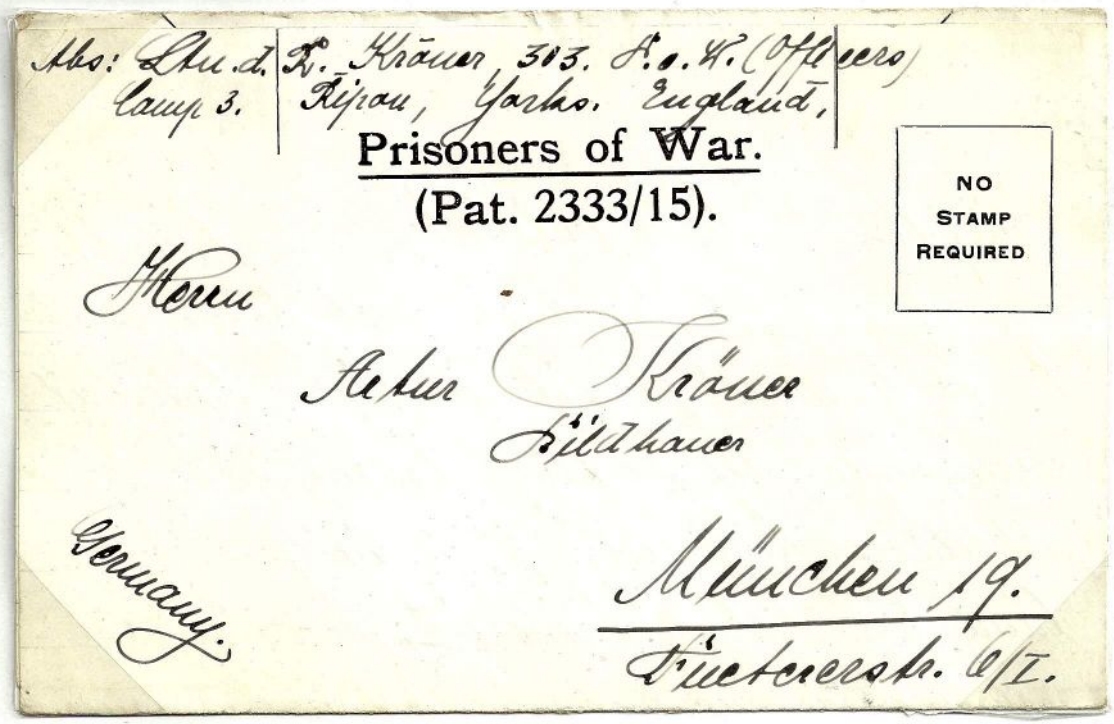
1d p.stat. envelope d/s –ETFORD/29 FE 16 to Officer POW. Censor cachet.



POW lettersheet to Germany from NCO ms. 22 IV 18. German censor handstamp, British censor label.

RIPON, YORKSHIRE

The camps opened by Oct. 1918: No.3 with concrete huts for 720 officers, 216 servants and No.8 Camp, North for 1200 other ranks. Vacated ?1.20.

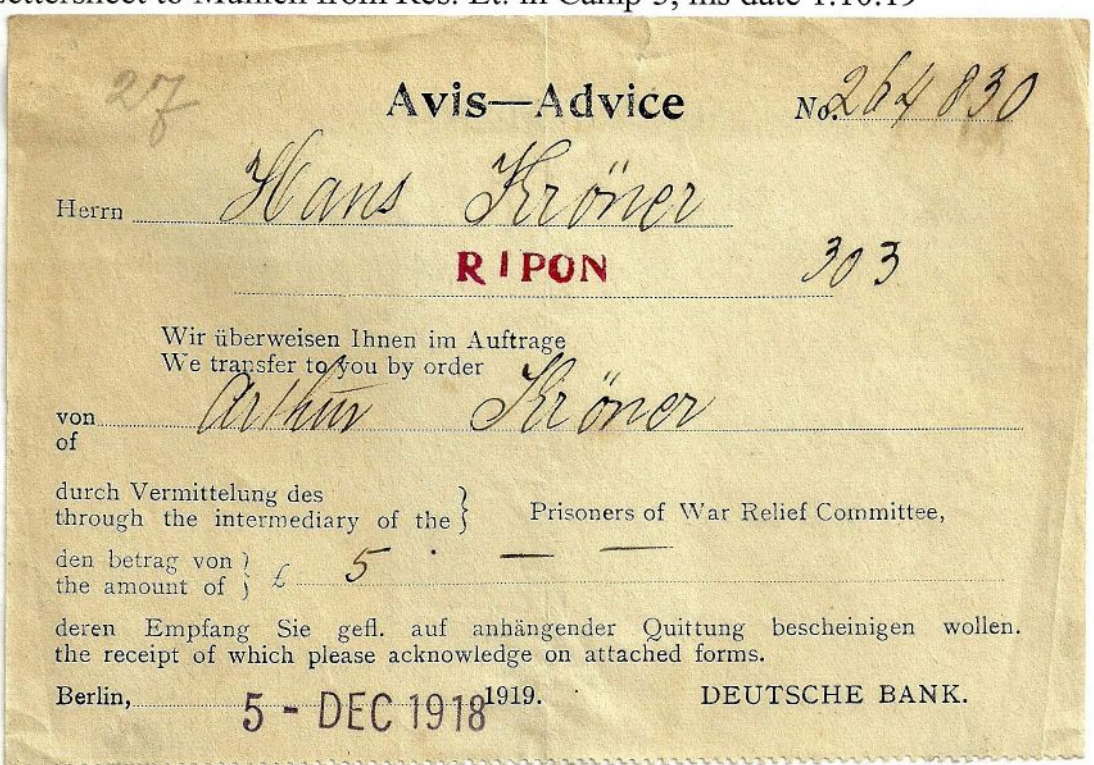

Abs: Ltn. d. Camp 3. | K. Kröner, 303. S.o.W. (Officers) Ripon, Yorks. England.

Prisoners of War.
(Pat. 2333/15).

NO STAMP REQUIRED

Herrn
Artur Kröner
Bildhauer
Germany.
München 19.
Fuetererstr. 6/I.

Lettersheet to Munich from Res. Lt. in Camp 3, ms date 1.10.19


27

Avis—Advice No. 264830

Herrn Hans Kröner

RIPON 303

Wir überweisen Ihnen im Auftrage
We transfer to you by order

von / of Arthur Kröner

durch Vermittelung des / through the intermediary of the Prisoners of War Relief Committee,

den betrag von / the amount of £ 5 . — —

deren Empfang Sie gefl. auf anhängender Quittung bescheinigen wollen.
the receipt of which please acknowledge on attached forms.

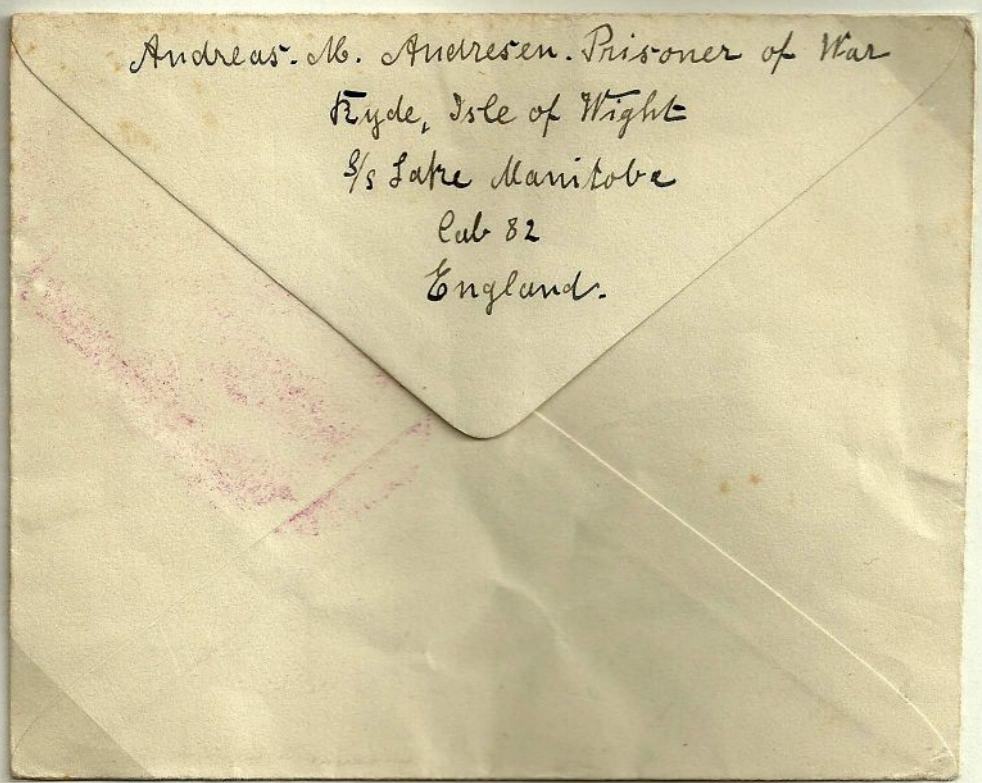
Berlin, 5 - DEC 1918 1919. DEUTSCHE BANK.

Remittance Advice Note to above officer with h/s RIPON in red.

The Solent Squadron.

1914, 28th Dec. Postcard from Plauen, Germany to Newbury Camp, redirected to Portsmouth and bearing the oval cachet of HMT LAKE MANITOBA, Portsmouth, Hants.

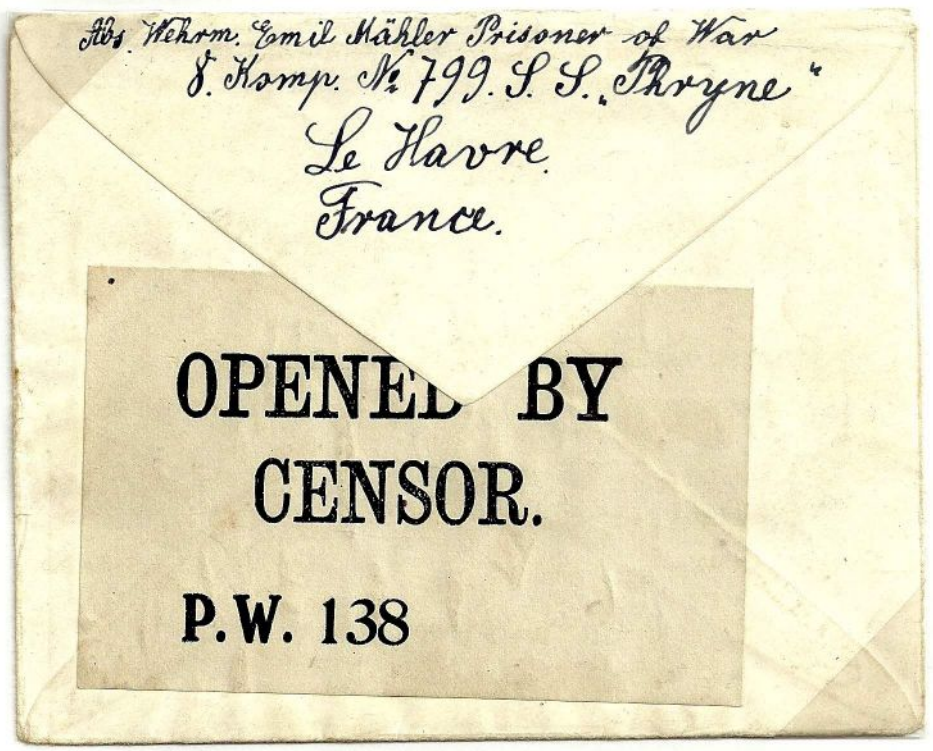
Censored POW cover from HMT LAKE MANITOBA, Ryde to Altona, Germany.



The locations in the cachets changed from Portsmouth to Ryde in the first half of March 1915 at which time she held 1242 men. By mid April she was no longer required.

PRISON SHIPS

Undated P.O.W. cover to Oetzsch bei Leipzig sent by a member of 8 Company, S.S. "Phryne", Le Havre.



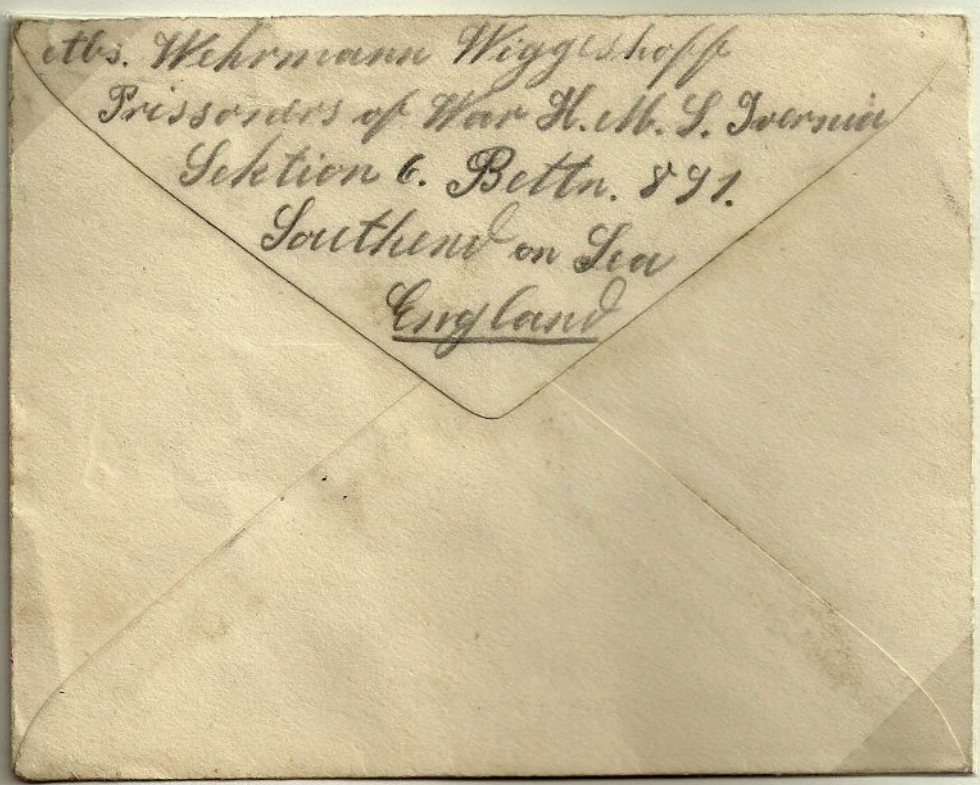
The "Phryne" may have been used as an accommodation ship for P.O.W.s working in the dockyard area at Le Havre. The ship's name has subsequently been used by the Caen Navigation Co on several of its vessels.

PRISON SHIPS 1914-15

The Aliens Register compiled by the Security Service MO5 included some 10,000 Germans and by November 1914 most of them were interned. Their containment posed a problem and until camps could be prepared many were accommodated on liners chartered by the Admiralty from the end of October 1914. Ten vessels were used, in the Solent and off Southend.

The Leigh Channel Squadron.

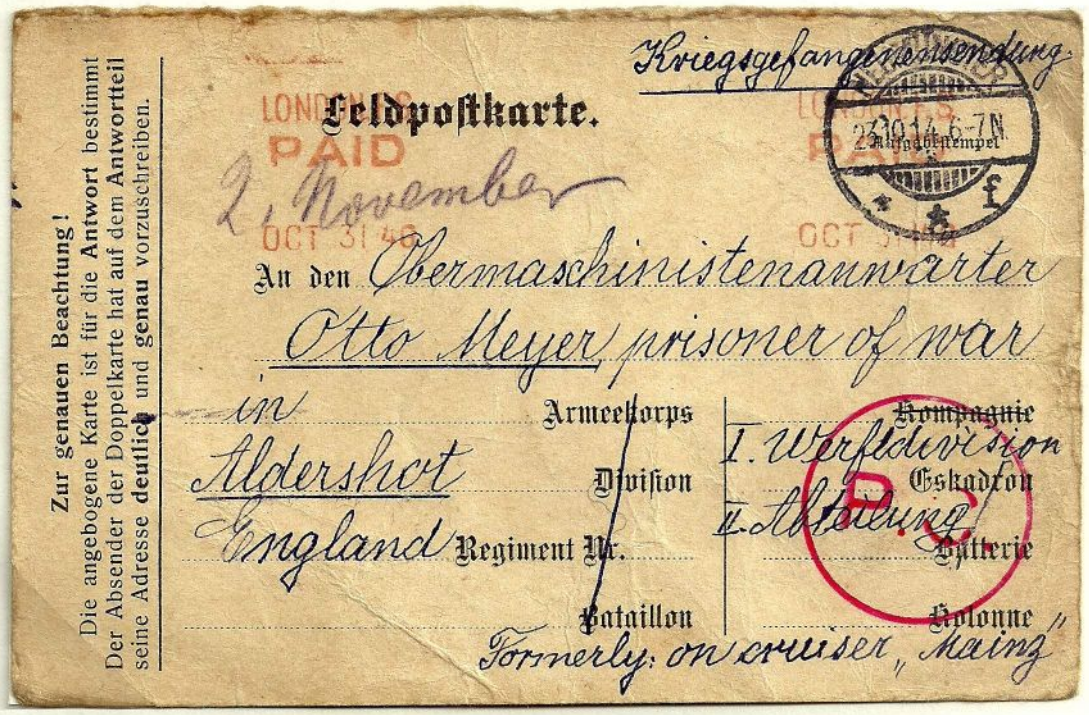
Censored POW stationery cover from HMT IVERNIA, Southend to Dortmund.



By mid April 1915 the Ivernia was no longer required. In March she had held 1575 men.

THE BATTLE OF HELIGOLAND BIGHT

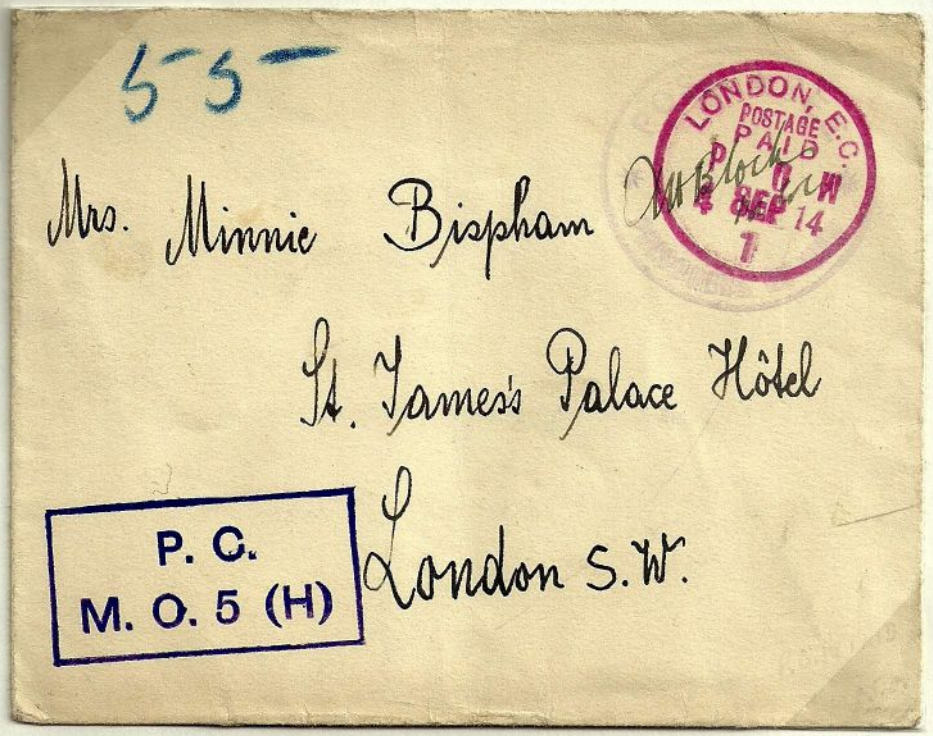
1914, 23rd Oct. Censored Field-postcard from Neumunster to a Prisoner of War held at Aldershot, "formerly on cruiser 'Mainz'".



The light cruiser 'Mainz' was sunk by a large British naval force on August 28th. Some 348 survivors were picked up.

THE SECRET BUREAU

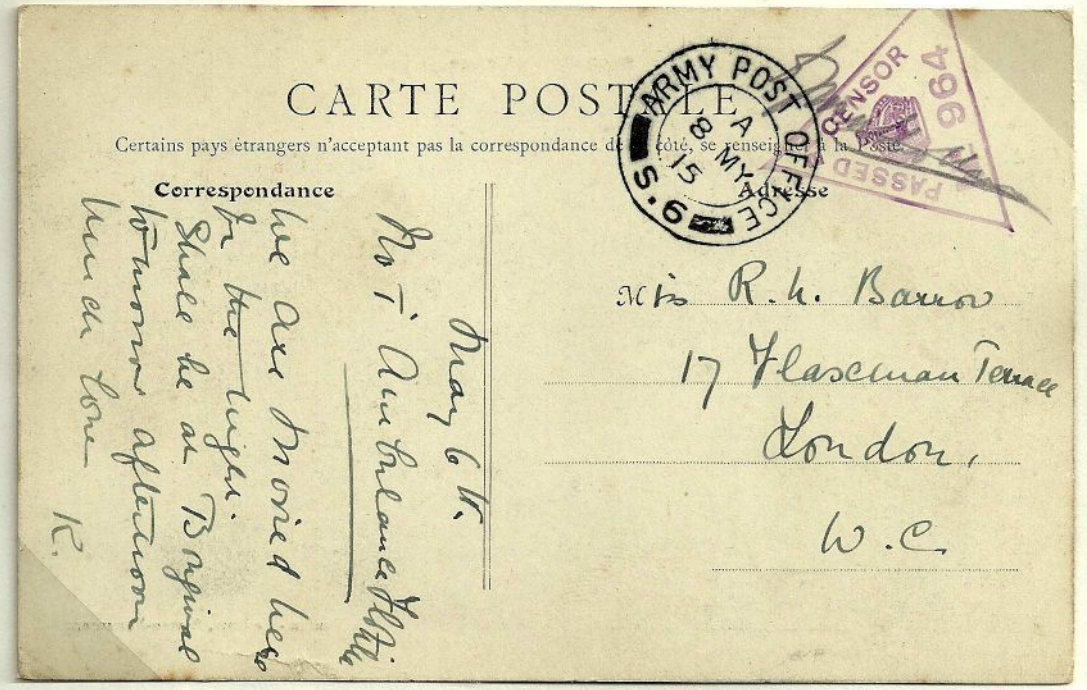
1914, September. Censored covers from Dorchester Camp datestamped with LONDON EC / POSTAGE / PAID / P O W mark and bearing boxed P.C. / M.O.5 (H) cachet.



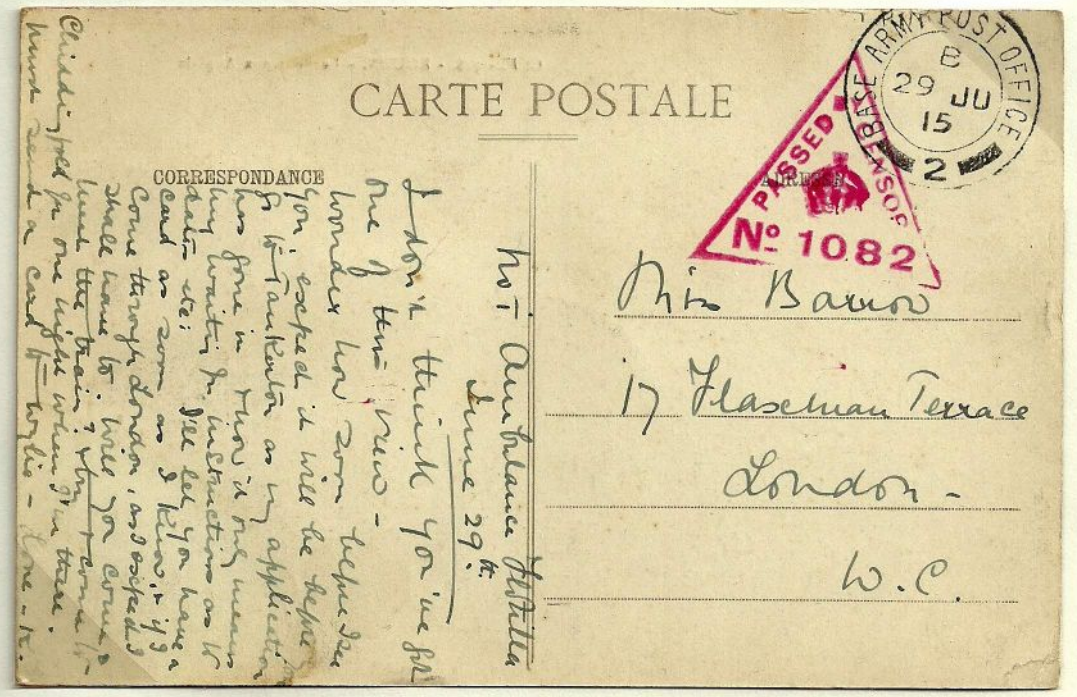
The Security Service was created in 1909 by Capt. Vernon Kell, S. Staffs. It was under Army control and located in Victoria St. By the outbreak of WW1 Kell and his staff of two had compiled an Aliens Register of 30,000 names of whom 11,000 were German or of German extraction. In 1914 the Secret Bureau became M.O.5 and in 1916 M.I.5 which moved to civil control in 1931.

NO.1 AMBULANCE FLOTILLA

1915, 8th May. Postcard from a member of No.1 Ambulance Flotilla datestamped APO S6, Versailles and bearing M3/964 censor mark of 5 General Hospital, Rouen.



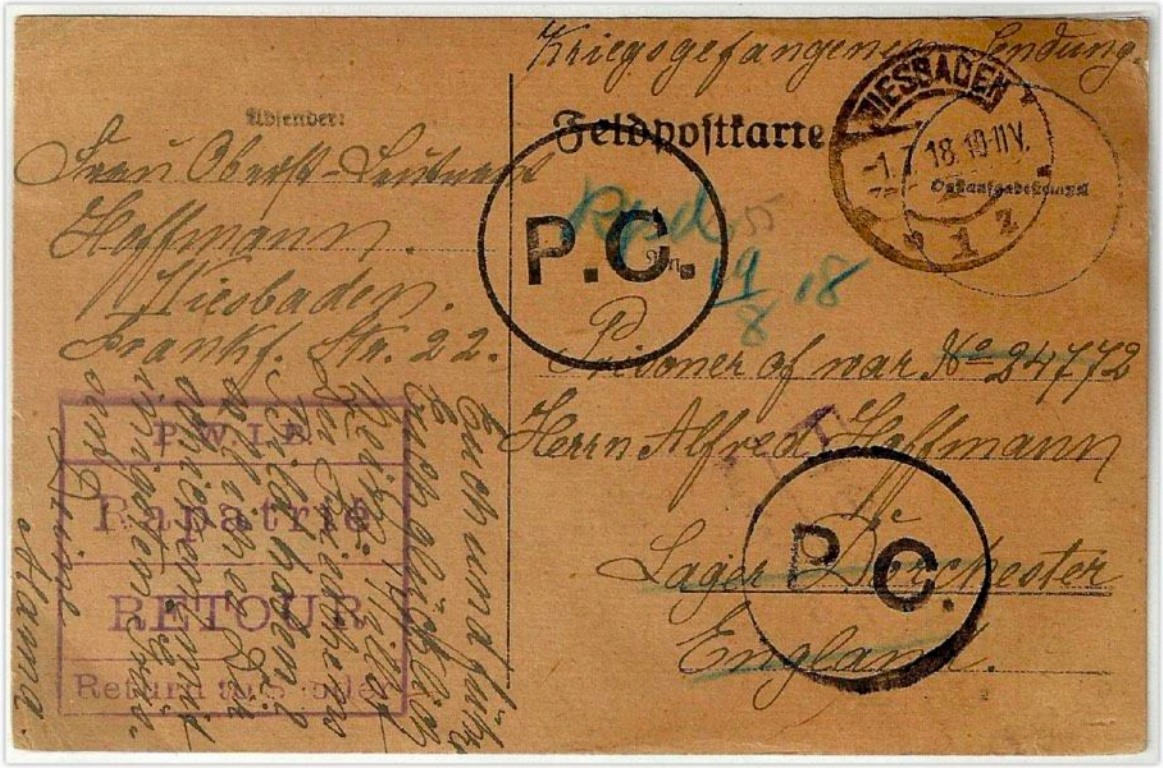
1915, 29th June. Datestamped BAPO 2, Rouen and bearing M3/1082 censor mark of 4 Red Cross Hospital.



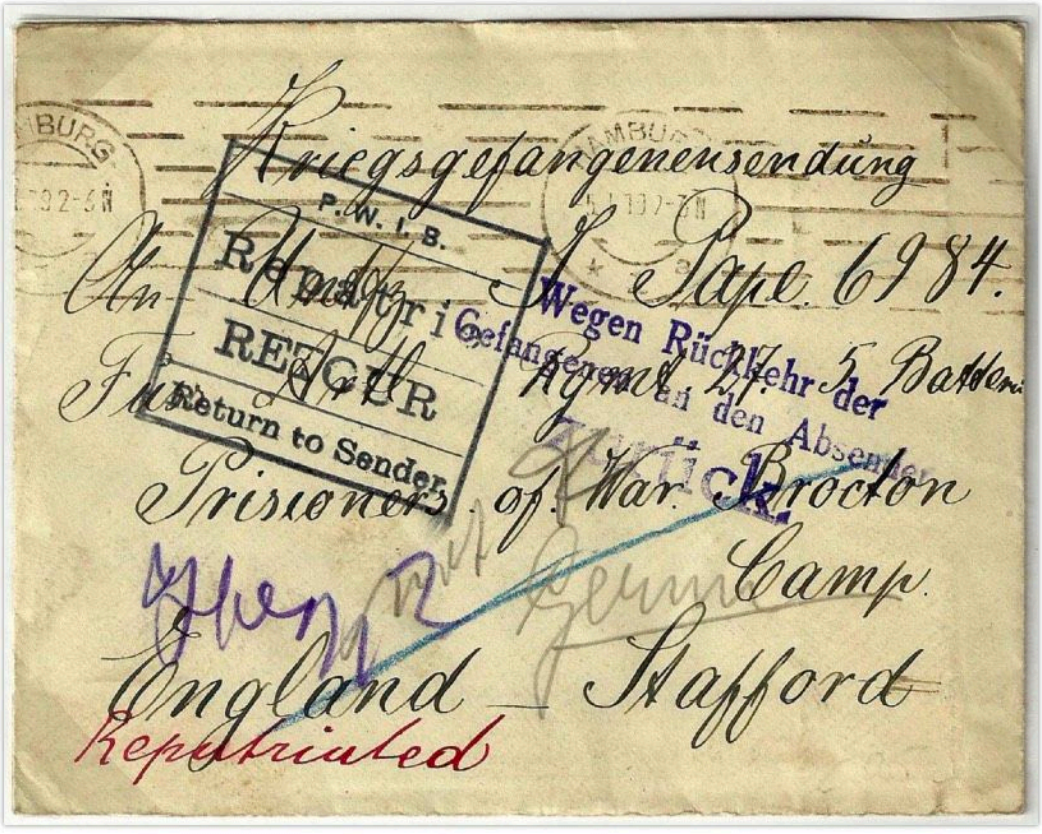
This flotilla was formed early in the war and worked on the Seine between Rouen and Paris. It comprised six barges, four of which were for patients - 50 per barge. Over 53,000 patients were carried by this and four additional flotillas which worked the canals to the North.

FROM ENGLAND TO GERMANY

Card from Wiesbaden 1.7.18 to a POW held at Dorchester with P.C. in circle censor, boxed 'P(risoner of)W(ar) I(nformation) B(ureau) / Rapatrie / RETOUR / Return to Sender' h/s and ms 'Rpd 9.8.18'.



Hamburg 5.1.19 to NCO 27th Foot Art. Rgt at Brocton Camp with boxed P.W.I.B. h/s, three line German cachet, ms on rev. Rpd 18.1.19.

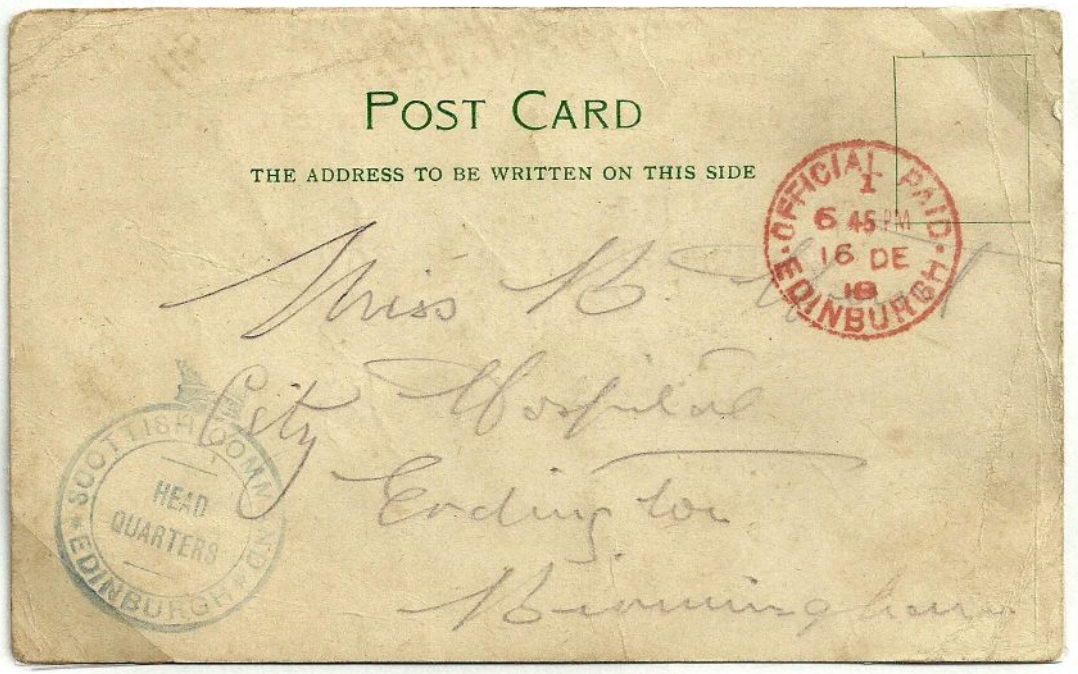


FROM ENGLAND TO GERMANY

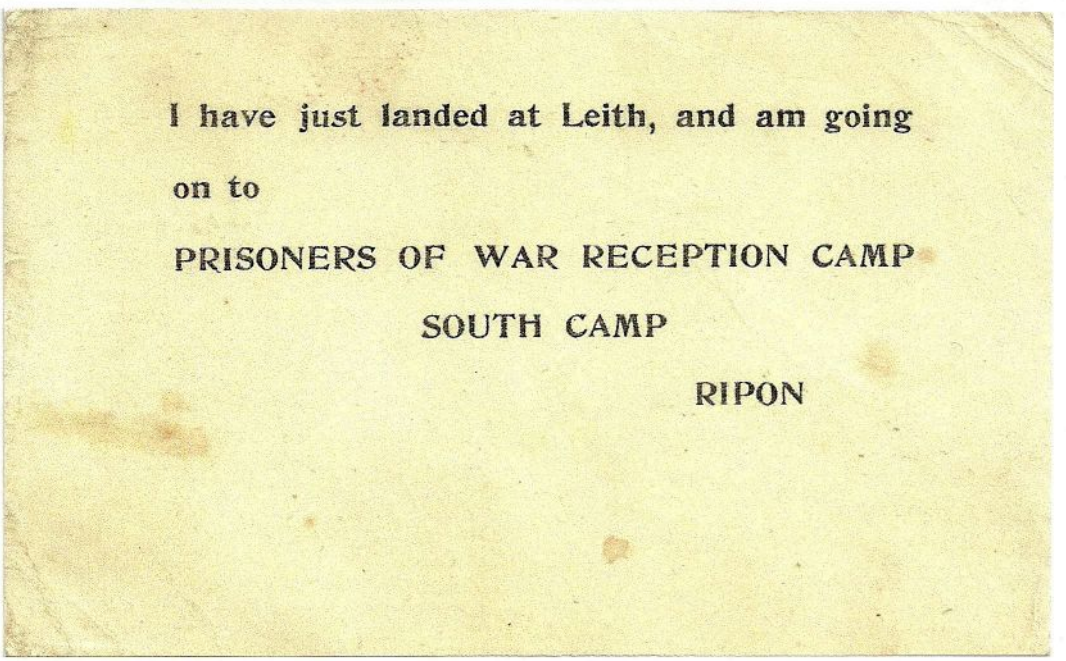
Postcard of the steamer 'Picolo' arriving at Wilhelmshaven with POWs from England. On rev. 'A reminder of my homecoming from England 10.11.19'.

Special postcard produced in Emden for homecoming POWs arriving at the port in 1919 but dated 17.2.20. It bears the cachet of the Reception Camp.

BRITISH ADVISORY CARD WITH TRANSIT CAMP ADDRESS



Official Paid postcard from Edinburgh 16 DE 18 to Birmingham with Scottish Command / Edinburgh / Head / Quarters cachet.



South Camp, Ripon was a principal Reception Camp for released POWs

Ireland

1921, 25th Oct. Cover from F.P.O. T29 to Lyminster.

F.P.O. T29 was used at Cork where it served the 6th Div (A.P.O. 3) Jan'21 – Mar'22

Waziristan 1923

Between 1919-21 punitive operations were mounted against the Tochi and Wana Wazirs and Mahsuds. Subsequent to this a large number of troops were employed in small garrisons over a wide area and actions continued until 1925.

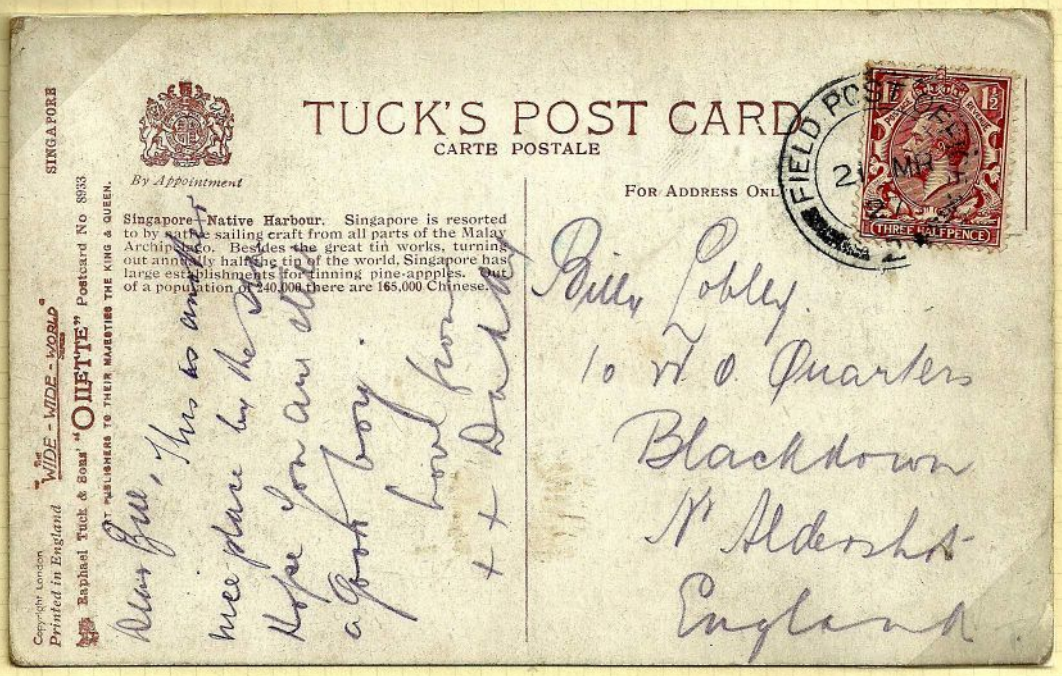
29 JUL 23

27 AUG 23

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Shanghai Defence Force

1927, 21st Mar. Card from F.P.O. 2 to G.B.

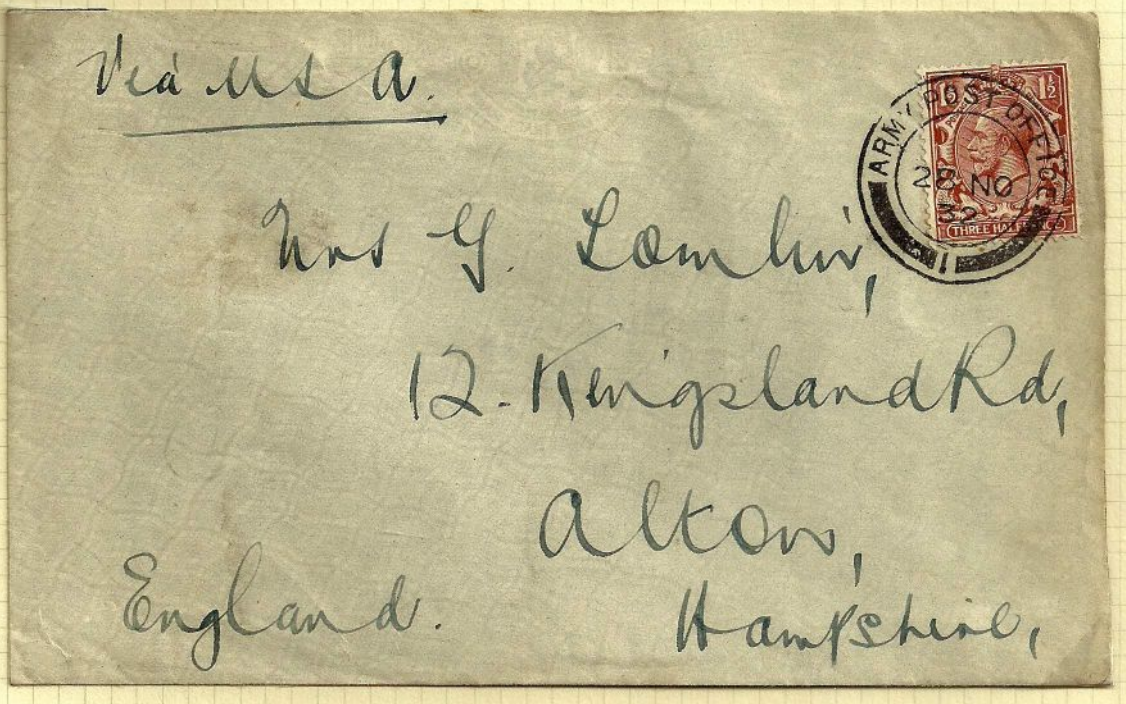


This F.P.O. was on the troopship 'Bellerophon' on the outward journey 5th Feb to 13th Mar '27 as far as Hong Kong where it was established at the Peninsular Hotel, Kowloon. The office closed c. end Sept '27.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Shanghai Defence Force.

Cover from APO 1, 28 NO 32 to GB.
APO.1 was Army t&T. at Kalee Hotel, Shanghai. It opened 26.2.27 and closed in August 1940.



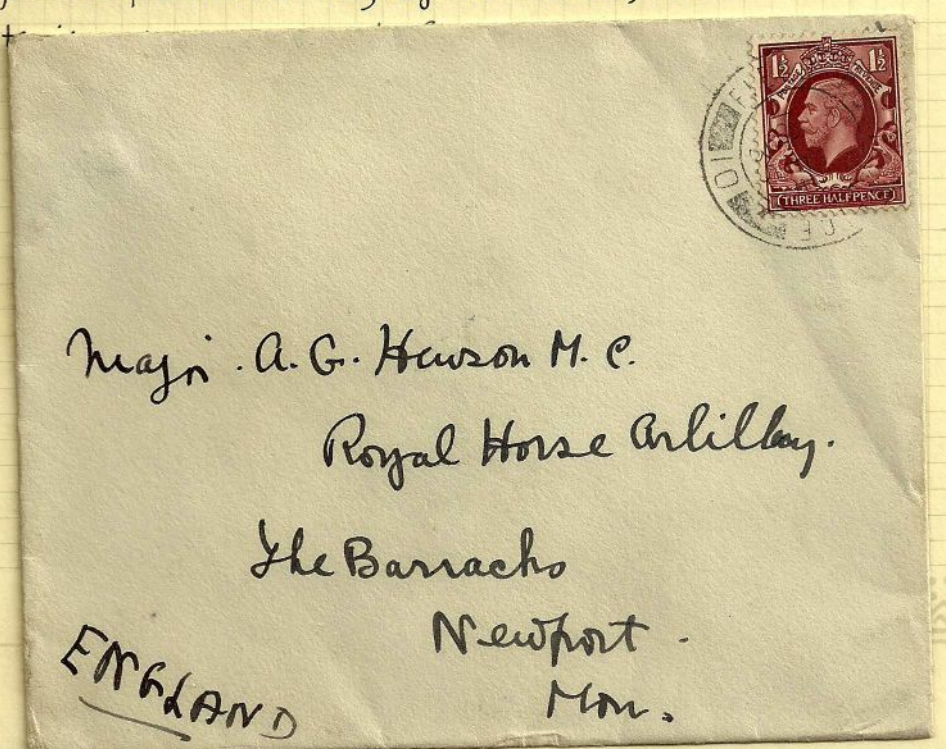
At the end of 1926 due to continued threats to British and 'foreign' nationals and interests in Shanghai and the Yangtse Valley it was decided to send British troops to protect those interests. The presence was maintained until 1940 when the last two Battalions were recalled for service in the World War.

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Saar Force.

1935, 15th Feb. Cover from Liverpool to member of the British contingent in 12th Lancers.

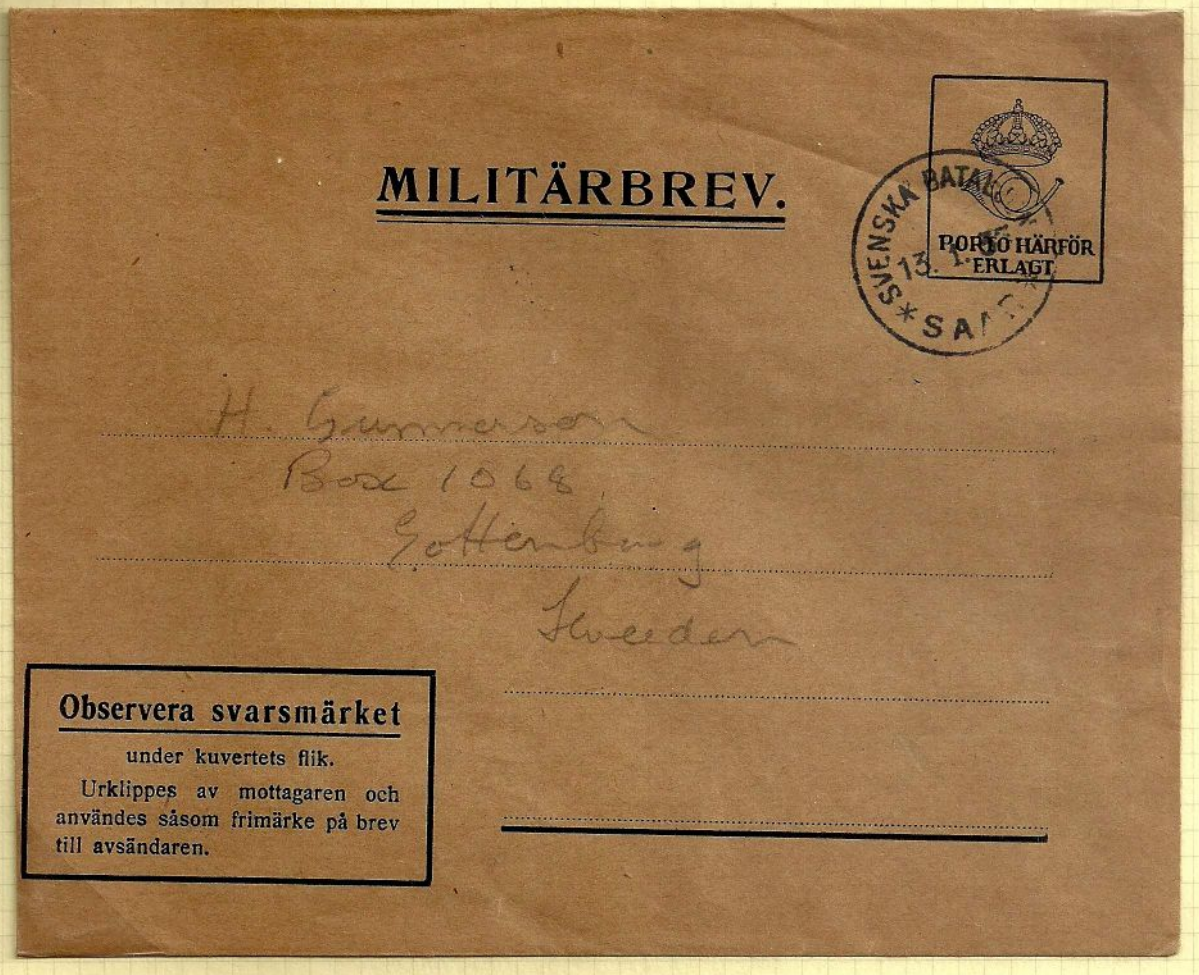
In December 1934, 1500 British troops went to the Saar along with similar contingents from Italy and Sweden to be present for the plebiscite. They left in February 1935 when the t



G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Saar Force.

1935, 13th Jan. Cover from the Saar to Gottenburg from a member of the Swedish contingent.



A Swedish infantry battalion was present in the Saar for the period of the plebiscite Dec'34 – Feb'35. The F.P.O. used a special postmark from 23rd Dec – 17th Feb. Most mail seen is cancelled 13th Jan, Election Day

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Spanish Civil War

Valencia 5 MAY 1937 to Manchester.
From a member of the International Brigade fighting with the forces of the Republican Government.

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Spanish Civil War.

Irish Brigade, December 1936 — May 1937.
Card from Northampton 18 MCH 37 to a Legionary c/o Curia Postal 71, Lisbon, Portugal. where it was received 23.3.37.

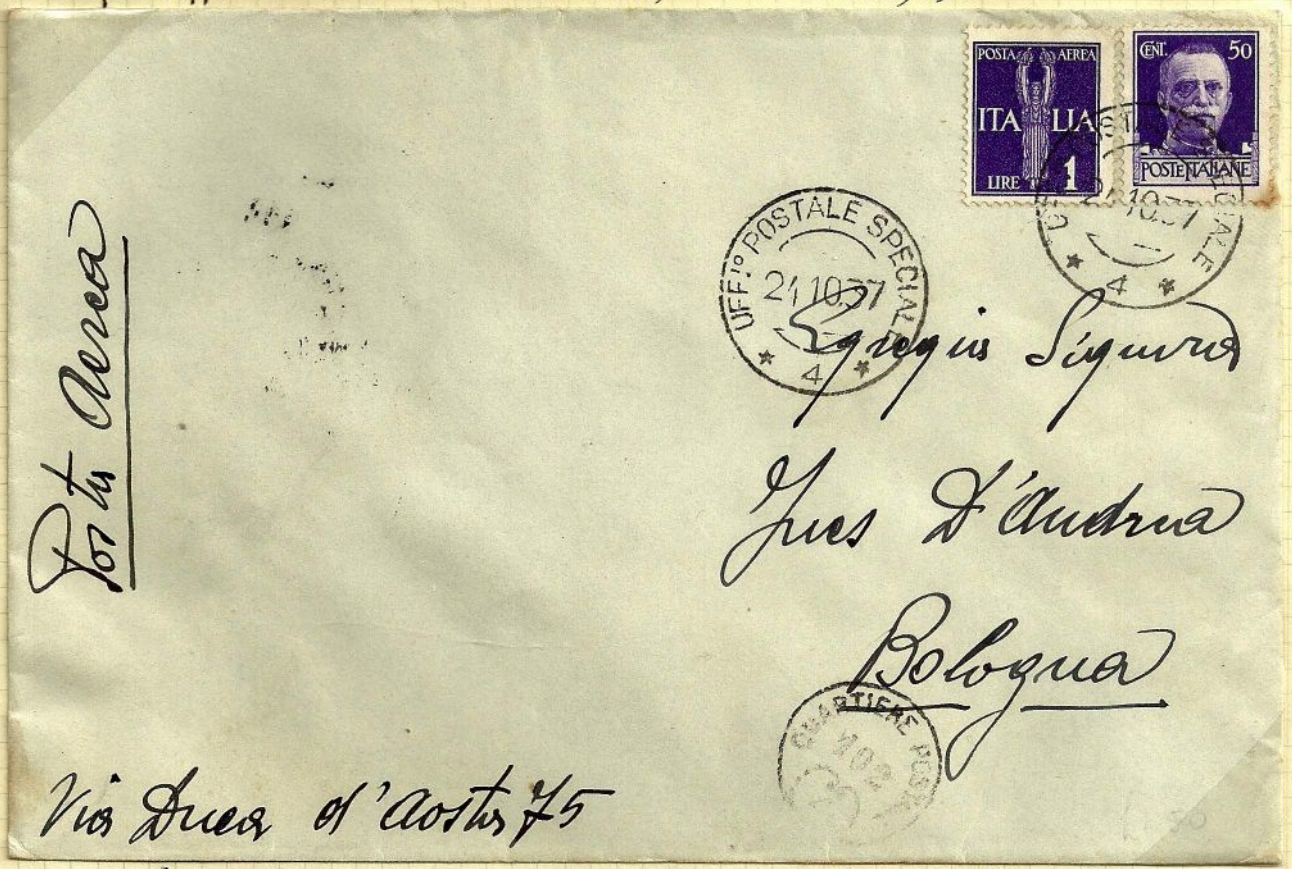
General O'Duffy raised a force of 600 men to help the Nationalists. They became the 15th Bandera of 'La Legion' and set up their HQ. at Caceres. Their principal action was near Ciempozuelos where they exchanged fire with another unit which turned out to be on the same side.

The Bandera elected to return to Eire after six months.

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Spanish Civil War.

Corpo Truppe Volontari. 26th December 1936 – 1st June 1939.



Mussolini sent about 50,000 men to help Franco. They arrived fully equipped with technicians, aviators, tank drivers, field hospitals and postal service.

The C.T.V. had a hand in the capture of Malaga and Santander. They suffered a severe reverse at Guadalajara.

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Spanish Civil War.

1937. Cover from Talavera de la Reina to Bexhill-on-Sea. Sent by Peter Kemp a British volunteer on the Nationalist side

'Not more than a dozen British subjects appear to have done so (fought for the Nationalists). Of these most were at least half Irish.'

'The Spanish Civil War', Thomas

Kemp fought first with the Carlists under Rada and later with the Legion being wounded on the Ebro front.

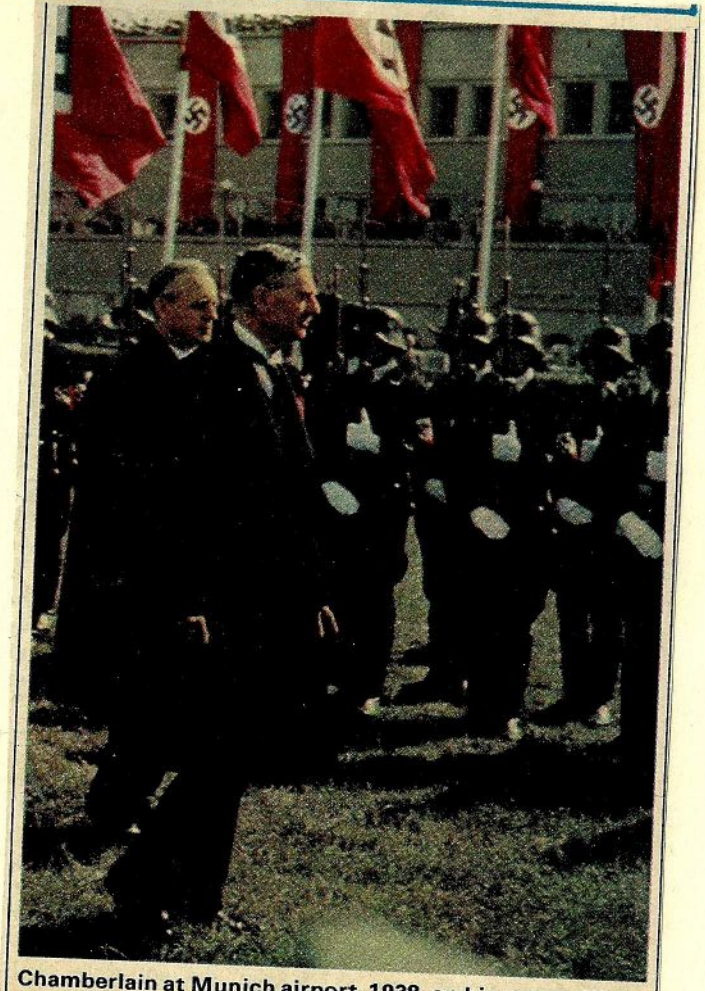
G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Munich

1938 (22nd Sept.) Card from Bad Godesberg to Oldenburg bearing 'Hitler-Chamberlain in Bad Godesberg cachet.

It was the Bad Godesberg ultimatum that Chamberlain & Daladier agreed to and signed at Munich Sept 29/30th 1938. German troops moved into the Sudetenland on Oct. 1st and Czechoslovakia was dismembered by the following March.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND



Chamberlain at Munich airport, 1938, on his way to Hitler after his first-ever flight. With him, Nazi Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop. Just visible in the background are some of the German crowds who hailed him as peacemaker.

1939-40 FINLAND - THE WINTER WAR

On October 8th 1939, the day following the Soviet invitation to send negotiators to Moscow to discuss "matters of mutual interest", a general conscription was called for extraordinary military manoeuvres and 17 field post offices were set up before the Red Army attacked on the 30th November.

Cover from FPO 3, 9. XI. 39. in the Karelian Isthmus to Salo.The cover bears the boxed KENTTAPOSTIA marking to ensure free postage, the open unit handstamp of the 14th Infantry Regiment and boxed censor marking in Finnish and Swedish referring to the decree of 20. 10. 39.

FINNISH AID BUREAU

PRESIDENT : THE MINISTER FOR FINLAND.

DIRECTOR : HAROLD GIBSON, M.C.
TELEPHONE : ABBEY 4422.

THORNEY HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1.

Ref: OA.1. 1599

11th. March..1940

Mac Corrie Esq.,
1 Milton Chambers,
128 Cheyne Walk,
CHELSEA,
SW.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in notifying you that your offer of service in Finland has been accepted.

You will, at some future date, receive a request to come to London to be fitted with your kit, and that notice will mean that you will not be able to leave London again before sailing.

Yours faithfully,

Harold Gibson

Director.

THE WINTER WAR - BRITISH VOLUNTEERS

Britain responded to the League of Nations suggestion by enlisting 227 volunteers and sending them to Finland. The short duration of hostilities and the need for training meant that they were not to see active service. Repatriation also posed major problems and for many involved internment in Sweden.

Cover from member of the British volunteers at Korpilahti, 31. V.41 to GB with Finnish and British censor tapes.

FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT

Cover franked 51/2m, cancelled KpK No 15 in the Karelia, 13 III 40 the day of the Peace Treaty. Return address KpK 28, unit 1752. The cover has a Finnish censor marking and British censor seal.

Cover from Joensuu 16 IV 40, after hostilities ceased, Finnish censor.

THE WINTER WAR - FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT

Under the aegis of the Red Cross 56 members of this unit sailed from Newcastle on 22nd Jan 1940 and on arrival worked well up to the front line.

Cover from York, 24 Mar 1940 to a member of the unit "Militarypost, Finland" with British and Finnish censor tapes. Following the Peace Treaty the FAU left for Sweden and offered its services to the Norwegian Government, becoming operational at the end of April.

THE WINTER WAR – RAF GROUNDCREW

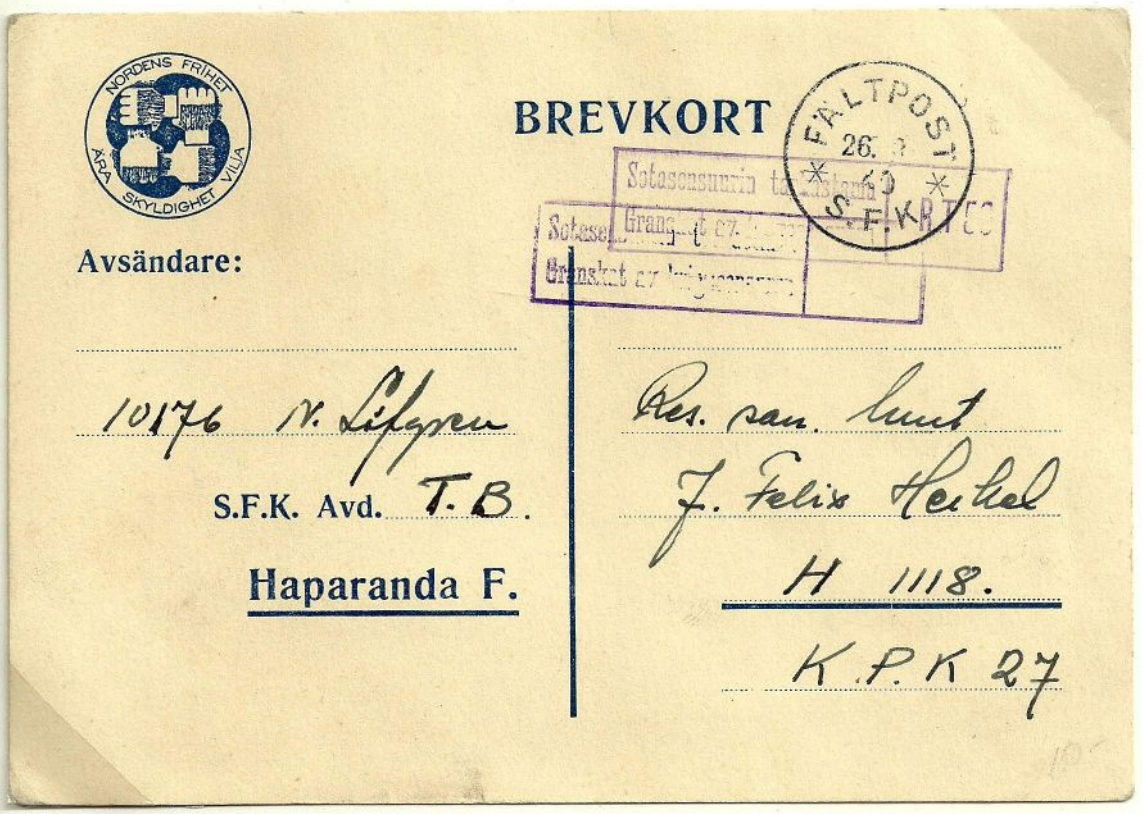
Sixteen RAF groundcrew were allowed to resign and go to Finland as employees of the Gloster Aircraft Co., to service aircraft.

Cover to England franked 51/2m, Peipohua 13 III 40, Peace Treaty day.

Cover from Newcastle 2 Apr 40 to F/M Duckworth at KpK 16, Tampere, Unit 5928 forwarded to Sweden. The cover bears an illegible unit marking, a Finnish machine struck bilingual censor N5 and closure seal.

THE WINTER WAR - SWEDISH VOLUNTEERS

Russia was expelled from the League of Nations 18th December 1939 and members were asked to help Finland. The greatest help came from the S.F.K., Swedish Volunteer Corps who numbered over 8000 and were responsible for a sector of the frontline at Salla.



Special stationery postcard showing the Haparanda F exchange office address used for all Corps mail, Swedish Faltpost S.F.K. datestamp for 26th March 1940, and Finnish censor sent to a soldier at Finnish FPO 27 in the Karelian Isthmus.
Haparanda was the Swedish town just across the border from Tornio.

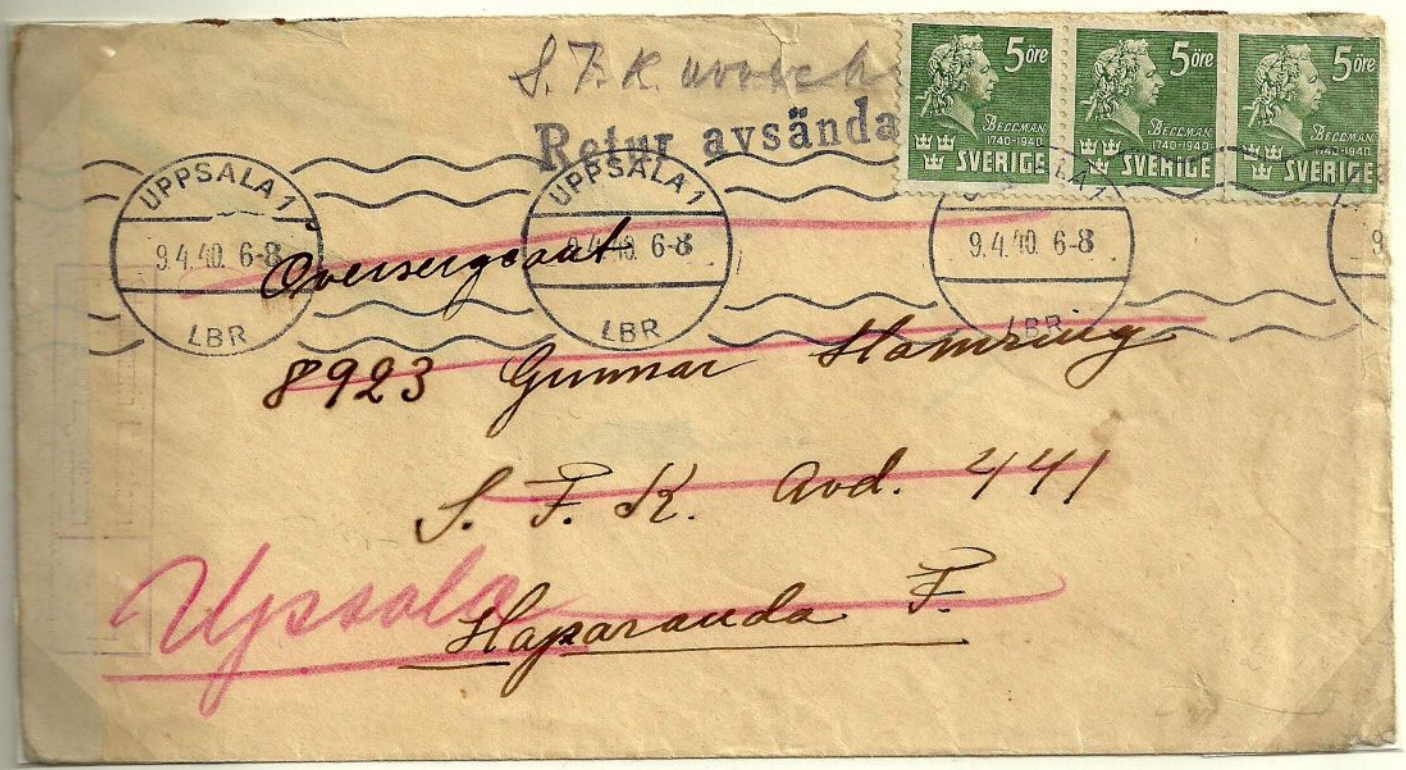
THE WINTER WAR – SWEDISH VOLUNTEERS

Turku, (Abo in Swedish), to the WNW of Helsinki, an important Naval base with links to Sweden was severely damaged by Russian bombing.

Cover sent Express from Stockholm 24 XII 39 to Abo franked 60ore and addressed to Greve (Count) Mac Hamilton of the Military Staff for Abo.

THE WINTER WAR - SWEDISH VOLUNTEERS

After the Peace Treaty of 13th March 1940 the S.F.K. returned to Sweden, having lost 33 with some 500 casualties. The last recorded piece of fieldpost is dated the 9th April.



Cover from Uppsala 9. 4. 40 to an NCO in the S.F.K. censored in Tornio found to be undeliverable and returned to sender with the unrecorded datestamp of the Depot on the reverse.

THE WINTER WAR - DANISH VOLUNTEERS

About 900 Danes formed a volunteer battalion and served in the North of Finland under the command of Col. Tretow-Loof.

Patriotic postcard franked Finnish 2m cancelled Loviisa 27th Apr 1940 to Roskilde, Denmark. The message refers to a parade for Field Marshal Mannerheim. Censorship has been carried out by both Finnish and German offices. The Danes returning from the Winter War found their country under German occupation.

THE WINTER WAR - NORWEGIAN VOLUNTEERS

Norway provided over 700 volunteers who served under the umbrella of the S.F.K.

Finnish 1.25m postcard cancelled FPO 25, 1. II. 40 at Tornio to Oslo with the Norwegian volunteer's return address Haparanda F, Sweden.

Germany

12th Sept 1939 Maidstone to Germany. Returned to sender as postal service suspended.

Great Britain + France declared war on Germany 3rd Sept 1939.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

The Netherlands

5th Apr. 1940. Belfast to Amsterdam. Returned to sender as postal service suspended.

The Netherlands were invaded on 10th May and capitulated on the 14th.

The enclosed letter was held up following the suspension of the postal service. The delay in returning the letter to you is very much regretted.

Returned Letter Section,
Mount Pleasant,
London, E.C.1.

5/4 - 5/11 40.

R06830C9/40 4m

C. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

France

1940, 26th May. Returned to Sender, via Vancouver! France was invaded 14th May 1940.

1940, 15th Jun. Brighton and Hove to Monte Carlo. Returned to Sender 19th July.

Mrs. Marekx escaped with 700 others in a small steamer eventually landing at Liverpool.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Jubaland.

1917, 2nd Nov. OAS cover from Kismayu to G.B. Transit markings of Mombasa 6 NO and Indian F.P.O 24, 7 NO Nairobi. Kismayu censor

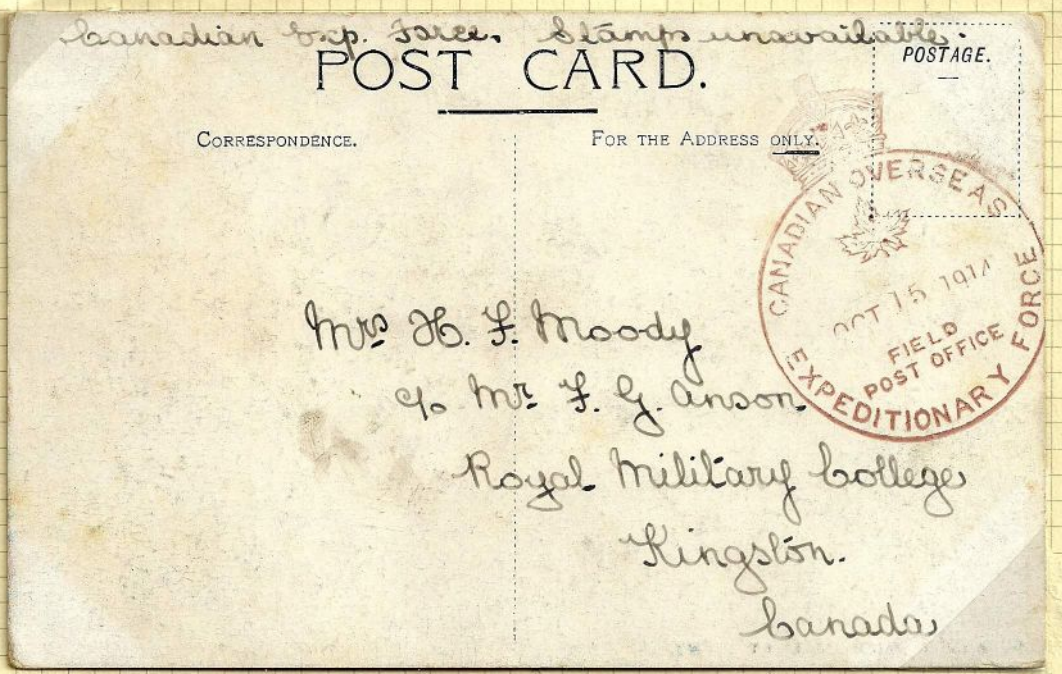
E. Porcelli O.C.

At the end of Aug '17 the 5th KAR commanded by Lt Col W.G.H. Barrett left by river steamer to occupy N. Jubaland. A warring tribe, the Aulyehan had earlier attacked the Serenli post killing the Commander, 35 police and 50 civilians. Barrett's re-establishment of the post left the tribe uncertain whether to surrender or fly but the drought prevented their moving far from the Juba or waterholes.

Porcelli's force in 2 columns drove the enemy S away from the river and against a small force of 2 Officers and 100 Askaris of 1/6 KAR moving N from Yonte. A lively action ensued featuring a mule saddle mounted Lewis gun, and a bayonet charge. By the 20th Feb '18, 5,000 camels, all but one of the chiefs killed or captured along with arms and ammunition signified the end.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914.


Canadian E.P. Force. Stamps unavailable.

POST CARD.

POSTAGE.

CORRESPONDENCE. FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

CANADIAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
OCT 15 1914
FIELD POST OFFICE

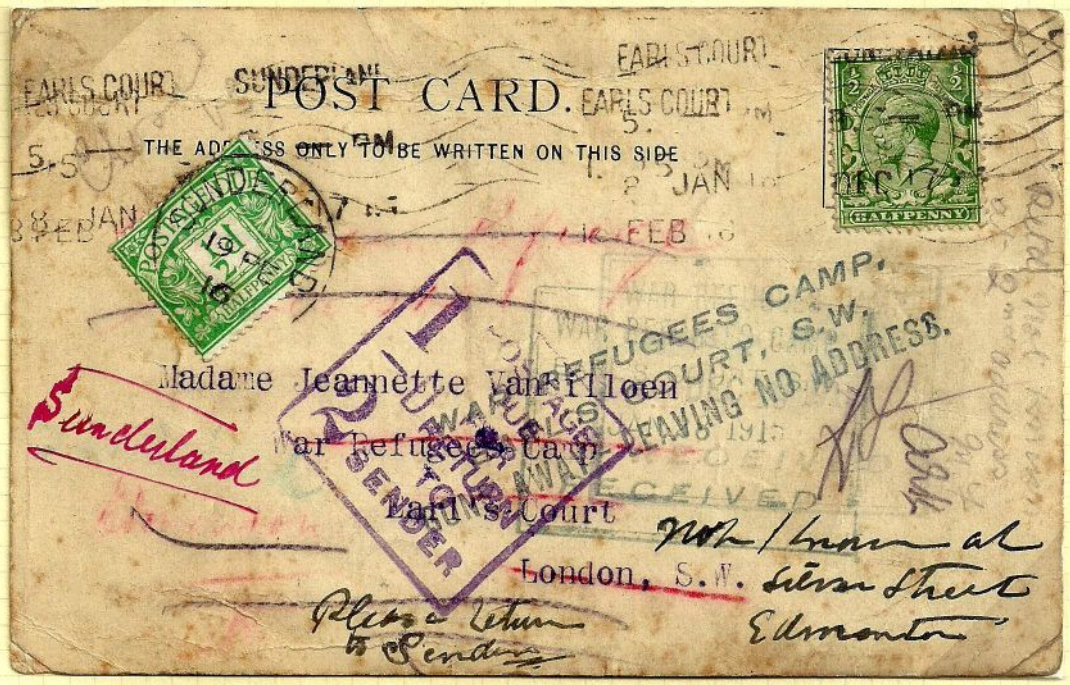
Mrs H. F. Moody
c/o Mr. F. G. Anson.
Royal Military College
Kingston.
Canada.

The first contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force concentrated at Valcartier in August 1914, and then sailed for England, taking with them several postmarks of the above type, which were used on Salisbury Plain until the contingent embarked for France in February 1915

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

War Refugees Camp, Earls Court

1915, 17th Dec. Card from Belgian Consulate at Sunderland to the camp. Returned and charged ½d Postage Due 19 FE 16.



The card shows both the boxed, dated receiving mark used by the camp and the three line explanatory 'Gone Away...' marking.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

The Treaty of Versailles.

1919 (7th May) Cover from German Peace Delegation to Berlin.

On the 10th Nov. 1918 an Armistice ending the First World War was signed. The Treaty of Versailles was signed on the 28th June 1919. Under its terms Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France, the Polish Corridor created, reparations were agreed and the German army was limited to 100,000 volunteers; tanks and military aircraft being forbidden.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

HOMEWARD BOUND

Repatriation of Prisoners of War in World War I and II

Photograph of the 'OROTAVA' docking at Cuxhaven in November 1919. She made two journeys transporting German prisoners from Newcastle on Tyne to the transit camp at Cuxhaven.

61241 Pte Parker J
18th Welsh Regt

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries & hardships, which you have endured with so much patience & courage.

During these many months of trial, the early rescue of our gallant Officers & Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

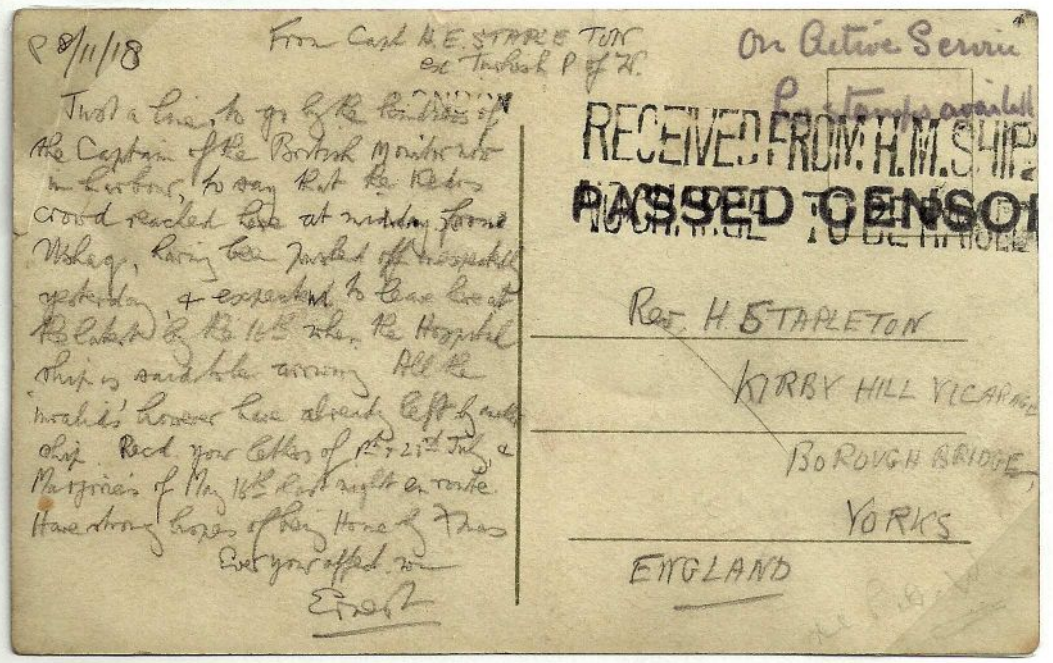
We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived, & that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R.I.

PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

FROM TURKEY TO ENGLAND

Picture postcard of Constantinople dated 8.11.18 sent to Boroughbridge by Capt. H.E. Stapleton, 24th Punjabis ex Turkish POW. Superscribed 'On Active Service / No stamps available', the card bears a PASSED CENSOR h/s and was cancelled on arrival in London with RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS / NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED.

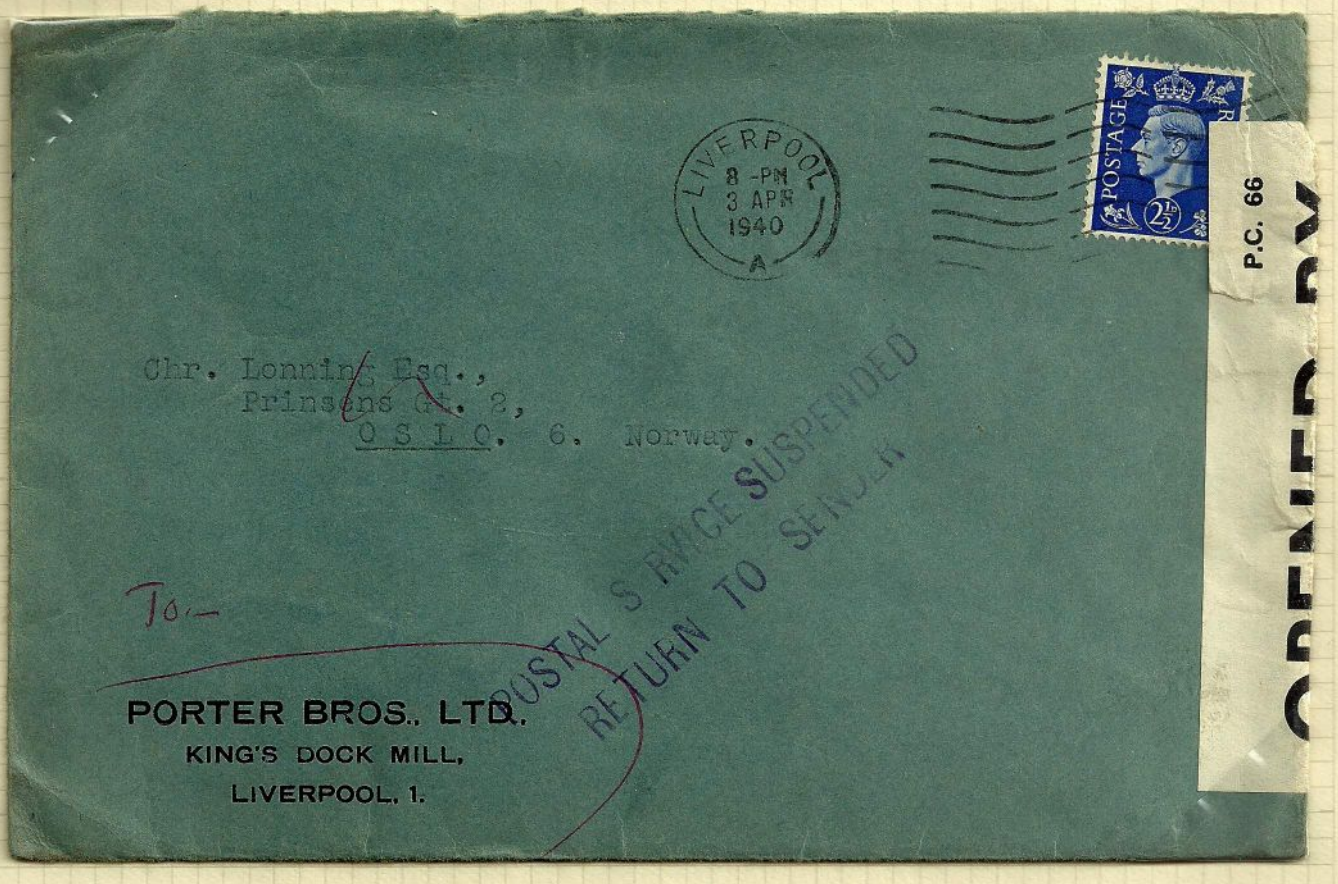


'Just a line to go by the kindness of the Captain of a British Monitor now in harbour, to say that the Kedos crowd reached here at midday from Ushaq having been rushed off unexpectedly yesterday and expected to leave here at the latest by the 16th when the Hospital ship is said to be arriving. All the invalids have already left by another ship. Have strong hopes of being home for Xmas.'

Capt. Henry Ernest Stapleton was one of the Kut garrison and was repatriated on the 16th Dec 18.

Norway.

1940 Cover from Liverpool 3rd April to Oslo. Returned to sender as Postal Service suspended.



On April 5th notes were handed to Norway and Sweden intimating Britain's intention to mine waters off the Norwegian coast. However on April 2nd Hitler had set the time of early April 9th for invasion.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Dunkirk.

7th June 1940 Edinburgh to a member of the British Expeditionary Force, France.
Returned to sender marked 'MISSING'.

By the end of May the bulk of the Allied army was trapped around Dunkirk. The evacuation began on the 30th and by the 4th June the beaches were cleared and 335,000 French and British troops had been saved. Epic rearguard actions were fought to protect the evacuation.

G.F. RAPKIN LTD
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Italy

1940, 9th June. Bournemouth to Naples. Returned to Sender.

Italy declared war on the 10th June 1940.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Channel Islands

6th July 1940 Dublin to Jersey. Returned to sender as postal service suspended

Occupation of the Channel Islands by German forces effectively began on the 1st July 1940 and ended on the 8th May 1945.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Far East

1941, 23rd Dec. Cover from Cambridge to Singapore. Returned to Sender.

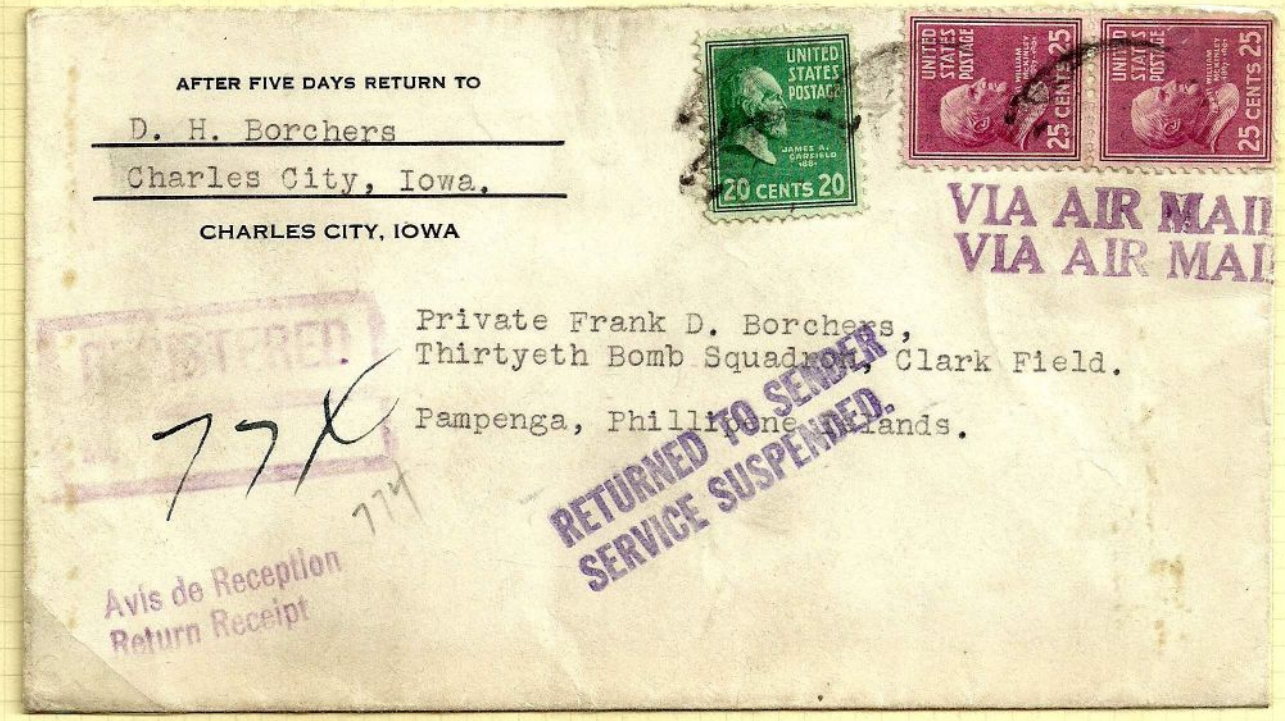
27th Dec. Reg. cover from Hampstead to Macassar, Celebes. Returned to Sender ? 20th Mar.

Macassar itself did not fall until 9th Feb '42 but the progressive threat to the Horseshoe Route with the Japanese occupying Bangkok on 8th Dec'41 meant temporary halts as reserve routes were set up. On Feb 16th with the fall of Palembang Batavia, the third reserve route was finally closed.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

The Fall of the Philippines

1941, Dec 10. Registered Airmail cover from Charles City, Iowa to Clark Field, Philippines.

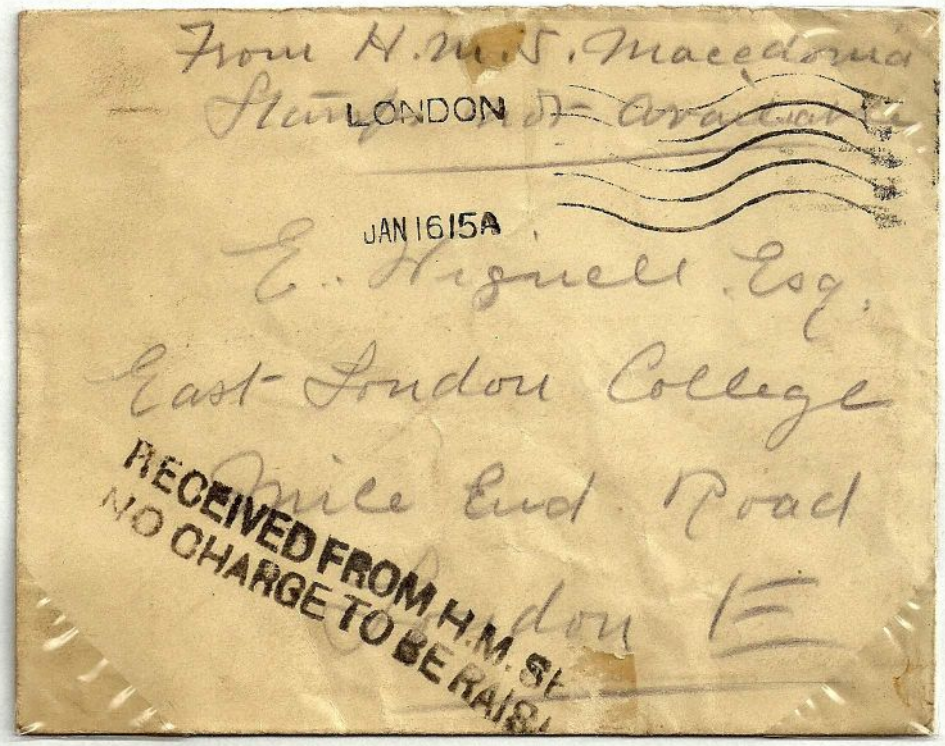


On the 8th Dec. (same day as Pearl Harbour but dated one day later because of the International Date Line) the Japanese launched heavy air attacks on USAFFE bases. Warned by Pearl Harbour the bombers had been flown off Clark Field in the morning but by mid-day they were back on the ground with their fighter escorts and more than fifty fighters and seventeen B-17's were destroyed. Air attacks continued for two days and the first landings were made on the 10th with the main landing on the 22nd MacArthur announced his plan to withdraw to Bataan on the 23rd. On the 6th May 1942 the last defenders on Corregidor, an island off Bataan, surrendered.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

THE BATTLE OF THE FALKLANDS

Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Macedonia arrived in the Falklands on 7th Dec 1914. She participated in the Battle the next day and in company with the light cruiser HMS Bristol captured and sank two German colliers SS Baden and SS Santa Isabel. She left with POWs on the 15.12.14 arr. at Liverpool on 13.1.15.



Cover to London headed 'From H.M.S. Macedonia / stamps not available', with strike of RECEIVED FROM HM SHIP / NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED and London machine cancel 16.1.15.

THE BATTLE OF THE FALKLANDS

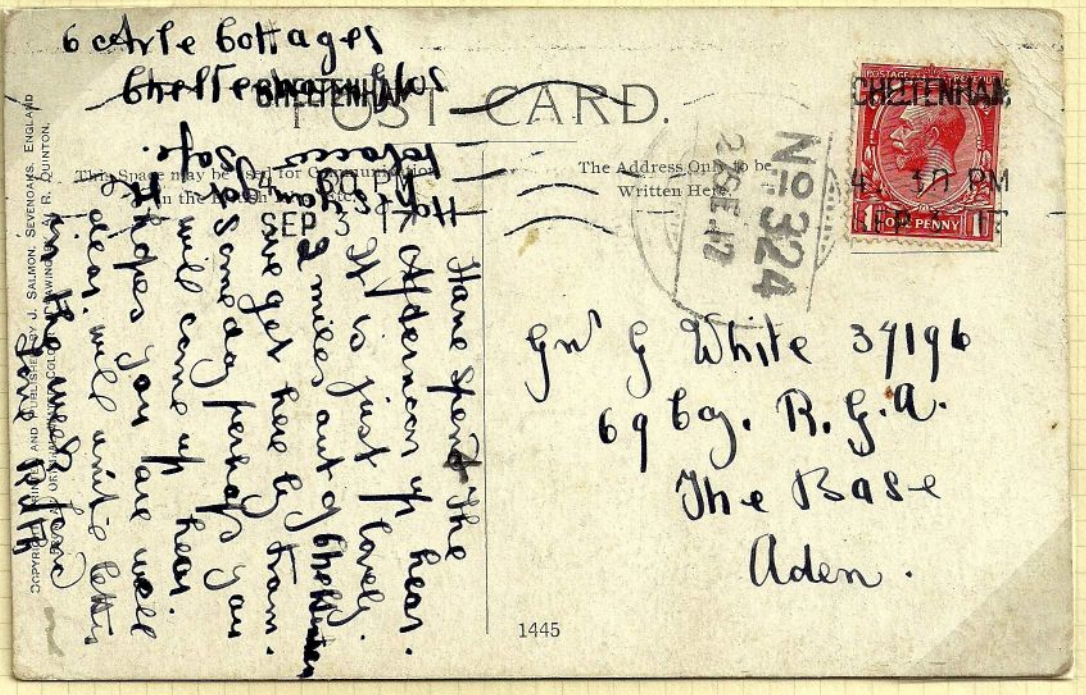
Armoured Cruiser HMS Kent arrived in the Falklands in September 1914. During the Battle on the 8.12.14 she sank the German light cruiser 'Nurnberg'. The light cruiser 'Dresden' was the only member of von Spee's squadron to escape and the hunt began on 15.12.14 . HMS Kent and Glasgow found her anchored at neutral Mas a Tierra, Chile where she was shelled and scuttled.

Cover to London from HMS Kent with Paid machine cancel on arrival 23.3.15.

Ppc of Lima to London from HMS Kent dated in ms. 3.4.15 with 2 line RFHMS / NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED.

Aden

Indian FPO № 324 27 SE 17 as receiving mark on card from Cheltonham.



Sheikh Othman 1.10.15 to 11.11.18 – Cooper.

PEERLESS SERIES
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

WEEK END TELEGRAM

At the end of 1914 Cable Companies offered an uncharged service to soldiers, sailors and nurses for week end telegrams of a social nature. Messages could be sent by post from FPOs to principal telegraph offices in the UK who forwarded them to their destination.

Eastern Telegraph Co., 'WEEK END TELEGRAM' envelope to Granton Harbour, Edinburgh with straight line EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MESSAGE. Sent with 3d franking cancelled Liverpool Registered oval 5.12.15 with Edinburgh receiver 6.12.15 on reverse.

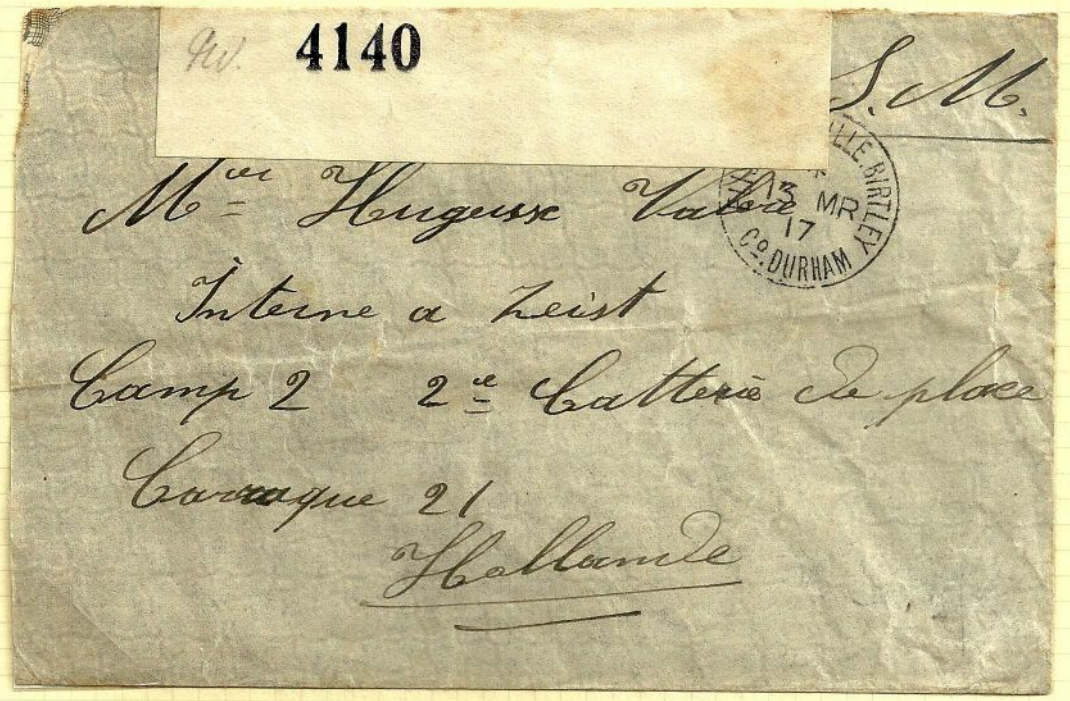
KING'S MESSENGERS

King's Messengers made regular journeys between the War Office in London and General HQs abroad carrying important communications. On their return they sometimes carried personal letters from senior officers at GHQ to be posted in London. Boxed, straight line and manuscript markings are known.

Cover to Ore bearing 1d tied by boxed 'K. crown M. / PRIVILEGED' cachet, cancelled LONDON SW machine 13.10.16. Sent by Vice Admiral Lord Charles Dundas of Dundas to his son at school.

Elizabethville

1917, 3rd Mar. Cover from Elizabethville, Birtley, Co Durham to internee at Zeist, Netherlands. Backstamped Legerplaats bei Zeist 3 IV 17. British censor seal.



single circle.

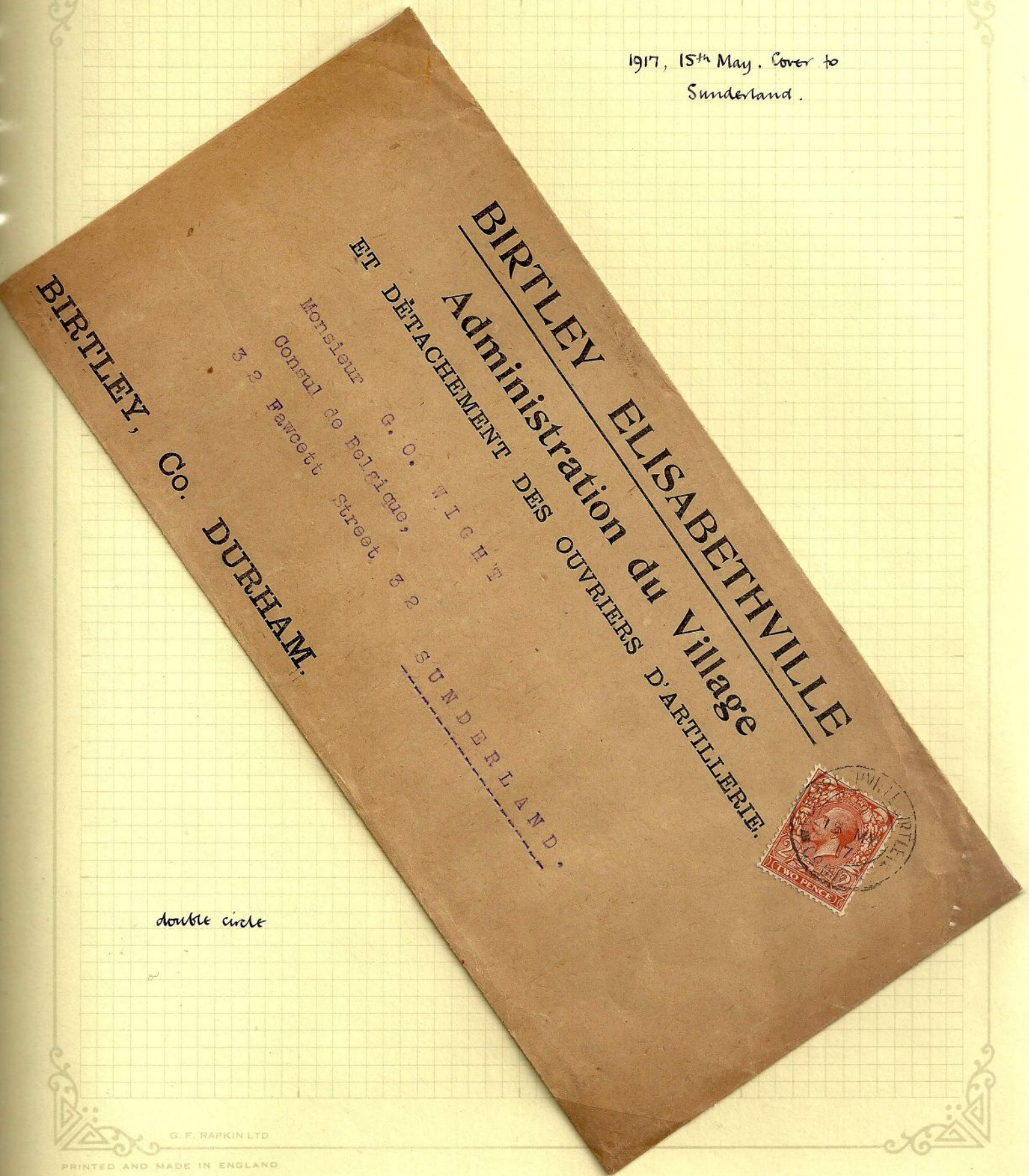
In June 1916 the P.M.G. approved a proposal to open a Town Sub-Office in the vicinity of Birtley, to be named Elizabethville. It was staffed by Belgians and was open until 6th May 1919.

The Ministry of Munitions established a factory at Birtley for the manufacture of shells and many discharged soldiers were employed. They lived with their families in wooden huts or barracks. Initially the settlement was of some 3,000 but rose to 6,000 by the end of the war. From a two countered office in a hut the P.O. moved to a brick building on the Birtley - Newcastle road in 1917. This building housed all of the administrative services of Elizabethville.

G. F. RAPKIN LTD
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

Elizabethville

1917, 15th May. Cover to Sunderland.



double circle

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.
PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND